

To: Jason Larrabee[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]
From: Skipwith, Aurelia
Sent: 2018-01-02T08:06:59-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Weekly Recap
Received: 2018-01-02T08:07:26-05:00
[Weekly Recap 25-31December2017.docx](#)

Happy New Year, Jason!

Please find attached a summary of last week's activities. Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

Weekly Recap: December 24th – December 31st, 2017

Briefings: NONE

Meetings:

- Hudson River Superfund:
 - o EPA plans to release their conclusion of the 5 year Report week of January 1st
 - o DOJ, NY State, and General Electric met to discuss the NRDA case; NY State may file lawsuit sooner than FWS and NOAA have data available. DOJ represented FWS and NOAA's interest
- Millennium Bulk Terminal:
 - o Outreach to Corps and waiting on response about the MBT's revised project plans and timing for Corps to submit Biological Assessment
 - o Since FWS already completed BiOp, requested FWS to explain which modifications in MBT's revised plan would change the BiOp...waiting response
 - o Must work with US Corps to understand project to be Working with FWS to resolve
- Renewable Energy Systems Americas (RES): Call scheduled for January 10th with SOL, FWS, and DeVito
- Restore New Mexico: **COMPLETED**
 - o Informed that FWS will issue a final listing according to court-order
 - o Advised to work with local FWS to implement conservation projects for RESTORE to use their grant funding.

Ongoing Projects:

- Fire Roundtable: **COMPLETED**
 - o Provide write-up of notes to Jason
- Research and Science Project
 - o Some USGS reimbursable FWS & NPS projects and funding amounts are questionable
 - o Cross-referenced FWS list with USGS lists and not much overlap to follow up on how these projects are tracked
 - o **NPS: Requested, but no information provided**
- Performance Review Board of 51 SES.
 - o PMB still to provide 2 SES reviews and meeting with my board this week to finalize
- OIG Report on Post-Employment of NPS Director:
 - o Provide OIG Response Letter recommendations of former NPS Director
 - o Policy Write Up for Single Location Moves
- Mazama Pocket Gopher: Requested from FWS all current HCP in Thurston County, WA
 - o Waiting response from Robyn Thorson (on holiday)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation: Request of fund for programmatic use
 - o Made comments to SOL's letter and waiting final letter for ASFWP signature (on holiday)
- TxDOT ESA Liaison Letter: **COMPLETED**
- Pahrump Poolfish: **COMPLETED**
 - o Resolved complaint with grazing by summer 2018; follow up in May 2018
- Sea Cucumber and Sea Urchins:

- Provided my opinion to Greg that (b)(5)
- (b)(5)
- T-Mobile:
 - Requested NPS to provide a status update and estimated timeline for completion of 14 outstanding project by Tuesday, January 9th
- Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge - Boundary dispute: **COMPLETED**
- (b)(5)
- San Diego Zoo (live elephant): **COMPLETED**
 - status and ensure DOI Comms awareness of permit FR publication on January 4th
- MLK events on MLK Day
 - Invitation from Memorial Foundation to Secretary for attendance at MLK on Jan 15th
 - Potential events on Friday, January 12th at DOI and Lincoln Memorial; will follow up on these
- Monsanto FWS MOUs on modern agriculture tools to enhance habitat
 - SOL do not have any recent MOUs that they've reviewed
 - FWS is researching this
- CITES : Todd directed me take the lead on CITES and do a memo on current status of issues and the plans for the Standing Committee meetings in 2018 and on the plan for the Secretaries' possible attendance at the CITES COP meeting in 2019. He suggested I go to Skyline to meet with relevant people. I will be setting up meetings and will keep you informed of my progress.
- Two FOIA requests: I completed one and requested additional information to clarify the request

Still on Radar – Waiting for Response and nothing to Report

Bulletin 38: Steve W. to provide timeframe for his comments on this

NAWPA: Waiting 2018 Dates from NPS

American Forest Resource Council: AFRC to follow up with me and Rick G.

- Endangered Species: Marbled Murrelets
- FWS is drafting a response letter to Congresswoman Jaime Beutler; need to review prior to it going external

Upcoming Events

South Dakota Annual Chamber of Commerce & Legislative Banquet, request originated from Senator Thune, approved by Ethics on October 31, 2017; waiting internal approvals

- Event Date: February 22, 2018
- **Provided information to Thomas Garcia in September and approval process not completed; South Dakota has been requesting confirmation**

To: Joseph Balash[joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov]; Travnicek, Andrea[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Jason Larrabee[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[john_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Dove, William[william_dove@ios.doi.gov]; Marshall Critchfield[marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Austin Ewell[austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Nichols[ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; James Schindler[james_schindler@ios.doi.gov]; Brian Steed[bsteed@blm.gov]; Casey Hammond[casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov]; Younger, Cally[cyounger@blm.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]; Preston Beard[preston.beard@bsee.gov]
From: Magallanes, Downey
Sent: 2018-01-02T09:24:42-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: 30 Day Policy Report
Received: 2018-01-02T09:24:47-05:00
[DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 12-18-17.docx](#)

All,

Attached is the last report submitted- please submit changes **by 2 pm today**. Thanks

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Downey Magallanes
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
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202 706 9199

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
December 19, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of December 18, 2017

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

1. **GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA:** The National Park Service (NPS) is poised to begin the process of executing a cooperative management agreement with the state of New York to convert a former landfill, not currently being used by the public, into a state park under a forty-year lease agreement. NPS would have no fiscal or operational obligations, but would exercise some authority as the underlying property owner. The site is located in Brooklyn on Jamaica Bay; it is known as the Penn & Fountain piece. This will open up an area for new recreational opportunities. The State of New York is pushing NPS to announce this at the beginning of the state budget process in January. Interior views this as a potential Presidential announcement opportunity.
Timing: December 2017
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT:** USGS released a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. An Executive Order (EO) directing Interior to help coordinate the appropriate agencies to undertake a government-wide approach to facilitate the domestic mining and processing of critical minerals is pending POTUS signature. DOI plans to immediately release a Secretarial Order after the signing of the EO.
Timing: December 21, 2017
Contact: Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.
3. **MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT:** Interior is completing a review of incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The Solicitor's Office plans to release a legal opinion concluding that the MBTA does not criminalize otherwise lawful conduct that accidentally or unintentionally results in the death of migratory birds. This will have a deregulatory impact, particularly on energy and infrastructure projects. Interior anticipates following this opinion with a Secretary's Order and rulemaking next year.
Timing: December 22, 2017
Contact: Daniel Jorjani, Acting Solicitor
4. **TWIN METALS MINNESOTA:** Interior will issue legal opinion concluding that Twin Metals Minnesota is contractually entitled to a third renewal of two leases to mine for hardrock minerals on lands located in the Superior National Forest in Northern Minnesota. This reverses a 2016 Obama Administration opinion that concluded renewal was discretionary. The

leases are managed by the Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the United States Forest Service. This opinion will clear the way for Twin Metals to renew its two leases and begin mining or continue making minimum royalty payments to the United States for an additional ten years.

Timing: December 22, 2017

Contact: Daniel Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

5. **RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA:** The USGS will announce an updated assessment of the Alaska North Slope with emphasis on National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPRA), the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and State lands and waters. The assessments were conducted in response to Secretarial Order 3352 regarding offshore energy development. USGS will outline descriptions of why the assessment is being done, what methods are being used, and specific documentation of the geological interpretations that form the foundation of the assessment. There are two geological formations in which significant oil discoveries have been announced in the past two years: the Nanushuk and Torok Formations. The Nanushuk Formation hosts two new discoveries, Pikka Horseshoe and Willow.
Timing: December 22, 2017
Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
6. **ACTION ON ENERGY BURDENS:** On December 22, Interior will send to the Federal Register the final rule rescinding the hydraulic fracturing rule. Interior will also publish a draft rule revising the well control rule in early 2018. Both rules were identified in Interior's energy burdens report, pursuant to Executive Order 13783.
Timing: December 22, 2017, Early January 2018
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
7. **BOEM DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** BOEM aims to publish the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Program. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed leasing areas with the public. Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.
Timing: January 4, 2018
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
8. **ALASKA 1002 AREA GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL (G&G) STUDIES:** Interior is drafting a proposed rule and associated environmental assessment to allow for advanced G&G studies on the oil and gas potential of the 1002 area in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Existing scientific data is decades old, and new data collection will be useful to better characterize the nature of any oil and gas deposits in the region. Once the rule goes into effect, additional environmental compliance is expected with respect to particular research proposals, which should minimally disrupt surface features in the 1002 area.
Timing: Early January 2018
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

9. **KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. DOI's current plan is to sign the exchange on Dec 22.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

10. **DOI ENERGY SUMMIT:** In support of the President's energy dominance agenda, Secretary Zinke will be hosting an all-day energy summit at DOI HQ. The summit will broadcast all aspects of the DOI's energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration's energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony

1. **REPROGRAMMING REQUEST ON REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Interior will send a reprogramming letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees asking approval for FY 18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior's bureaus. Presently each of the 10 bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach would have bureaus share common boundaries based on ecosystems, using watersheds as a convenient and well-recognized proxy for ecosystems. Implementing common regions should improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is preparing a comprehensive roll-out strategy to maximize the chances that this first step toward implementing the Secretary's longer term government reform plan will be well-received by Congress and stakeholders.

Timing: January 7, 2018

Contact: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

2. **UPCOMING SENR HEARING:** The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee is set to hold an oversight hearing on the benefits of title transfer and opportunities to improve the process. Other topics include what types of projects and transfers should need to be approved by Congress; the process for getting transfer of a projects including the level of environmental compliance that is required; and why projects are pursuing transfers (ability to finance, lower project costs, approval delays, etc). DOI witness is pending.

Timing: January 10, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

3. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on

September 7, 2017 and is waiting for a vote. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing was held on 12/5/17. He also passed out of committee and is awaiting final confirmation. Each nominee has continued to make themselves available to Senators for meetings and follow up. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **SAGE GROUSE INSTRUCTIONAL MEMORANDA:** On Friday, BLM will take action on six Instruction Memoranda related to Sage Grouse Management. The previous memoranda were issued in response to the previous Administrations' Sage Grouse policy. After consulting with states and other entities, these revisions to the IMs are intended to provide more flexibility in Sage Grouse management decisions. Actions on the 68 Sage Grouse Resources Management Plans is ongoing. A scoping report is set to be completed and released to the public in mid January
Timing: December 21, 2017
Contact: Brian Steed, Deputy BLM Director
2. **UPPER KLAMATH BASIN COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT:** The Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA) is an agreement completed in 2010 between the Klamath Tribes, State of Oregon, and numerous irrigators in the Upper Klamath Basin that addresses the needs of water users and restores fisheries. At least one provision of the agreement was not met, so the Secretary intends to publish a Negative Notice in late December that will terminate the current agreement. Publication of the Negative Notice in the federal register will allow new efforts by stakeholders to develop a comprehensive solution to the Basin's difficult water and fisheries issues.
Timing: December, 22 2017
Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
3. **MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:** In the next few weeks, BLM will publish Notice of Intents (NOI) regarding management plans in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The NOIs are the first steps in contemplating new management plans in these monuments, consistent with the monument modifications enacted by the President on December 4.
Timing: January 2018
Contact: Brian Steed, Deputy BLM Director
4. **CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT AND STATE WATER PROJECT:** The Bureau of Reclamation intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for analyzing potential modifications to the continued long-term operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), in a coordinated manner with California's State Water Project (SWP), for its authorized purposes, in a manner that enables Reclamation and California's Department of Water Resources to maximize water deliveries and optimize marketable power generation consistent

with contractual obligations, agreements, including federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes; applicable laws; and to augment operational flexibility by addressing the status of listed species. Reclamation will continue to work with all stakeholders throughout this process.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

5. **ATLANTIC COAST AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES:** Both pipelines would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and are currently under environmental review and consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by FERC, and a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated in late 2017. NPS recently signed the programmatic agreement to move forward on Section 106 with FERC for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. On the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the project sponsor has signed the construction permits issued by NPS. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward.

Timing: December 2017/ January 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Parks

6. **ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** In December, BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.

Timing: December 2017

7. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSIDERING HUNTING AND FISHING CHANGES IN ALASKA:** The NPS intends to initiate a rulemaking process that will consider changes to regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska (80 FR 65325) (promulgated in October 2015 and effective on November 23, 2015). Throughout this process, the NPS will consider the purpose of Secretarial Order 3347 (“Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation”) to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The NPS will also identify ways to improve recreational hunting and fishing cooperation, consultation, and communication with State of Alaska wildlife managers. The NPS will comply with all applicable laws governing the rulemaking process, including the requirement to provide an opportunity for public comment on any proposed regulatory changes under 5 U.S.C. 553. The NPS is not accepting comments on this announcement. The public will have an opportunity to comment when a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

Timing: Late December 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

8. **RESCINDING AUTHORITIES INCONSISTENT WITH SECRETARY’S ORDER 3349, “AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE”:** The Secretary will issue a Secretarial Order in October to review all actions taken pursuant to Secretary’s Order 3330, “Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior,” dated October 31, 2013, for possible reconsideration, modification, or rescission, as appropriate. This Order represents the next step in following up on the President’s Executive Order 13783 and the Secretary’s Order 3349 by

rescinding policies and documents that are based on authorities that have now been revoked by the President and the Secretary.

Timing: Late December 2017

Contact: Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

9. **US FISH & WILDLIFE MITIGATION POLICIES SCHEDULED FOR REVISION:** FWS is currently receiving public comment on portions of its Agency-Wide Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions on which FWS will request comment include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives. Based on comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policies. Outreach will include a news release and notifications to targeted stakeholders. There is a high level of interest from states, stakeholders, NGOs and the public.

Timing: Ongoing 2017/2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

10. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout December, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.

- **Belle Ayr Mine Plan Decision:** OSMRE's Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation for the Belle Ayr Mine mining plan modification in December. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
- **Cordero Rojo Mine.** OSMRE's Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation late December 2017. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
- **Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification (WY):** OSMRE's Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation on or about January 2, 2018, for the Bridger Mine. The mine employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

11. **OIL & GAS LEASE SALES:** Throughout December, the Bureau of Land Management held oil and gas lease sales on a total of nearly 11 million acres throughout nine states with total receipts of \$42,203,463.

Timing: December 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

Other/Awareness Only

1. **HUNTING HERITAGE TO BE DEPICTED IN NEXT DUCK STAMP:** Public comments are underway for a US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rule which would revise the 2018 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation stamp (Duck Stamp) contest regulations. FWS is proposing for 2018, contest entries must include one or more visual elements that reflect the

theme “celebrating our waterfowl hunting heritage.” Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a news release.

Timing: December 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** The Department continues to participate in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework, as well as the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Interior is the lead federal agency on the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery mission and has deployed teams to Puerto Rico and the USVI to work with the Territorial government representatives on developing recovery priorities and long term recovery strategies. A senior staffer from Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs is also deployed to the USVI to help inform the overall FEMA-led Recovery activities. Interior's Recovery team efforts in Puerto Rico are complimented by continuing Response work, also being led by the Department. Last week, an interagency team conducted workshops in Puerto Rico on treating mold and mildew that are impacting cultural heritage institutions and their collections. A second cultural resource team continues to work with the State Historic Preservation Office staff to conduct damage assessments of properties on and eligible for the National Historic Register; approximately 200 sites have been evaluated to date. Based these efforts, the cultural resource teams will reassess the need for follow-on actions in the new year. Similar efforts are being planned in support of the USVI SHPO.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

3. **REBUILD OUR PARKS INITIATIVE:** Interior continues to look for opportunities to announce the Rebuild the Parks Initiative, which would create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the maintenance backlog in the parks and refuges. The Secretary has continued to discuss a path forward on the language with Director Mulvaney

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

4. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior is continuing to work with OMB on language to exempt certain timber harvest activities from NEPA requirements to help prepare for wildfires. Interior submitted this language to OMB for consideration as a part of the supplemental. It was not included in the version sent to the hill however; OMB has reached out to continue to work with us on a path forward. Interior also plans to send the policy to NEC, who has not been made aware of details of the proposal.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

5. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have signed an extension lease for the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) which enables operation of the coal-fired power plant to continue through December 22, 2019. The Bureau of Reclamation has a participation interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future

owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR THE SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANT PROGRAM:** Applications are being accepted for \$5 million in matching grants to support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections through the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. Funded through offshore oil revenues, SAT was established in 1998 by executive order and was co-founded with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Timing: December/Ongoing 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **URBAN PARTNERSHIP GRANTS:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife, will award over \$2 million in grants under their Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. The grants fund multiple federal initiatives, including new and existing Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships and Urban Bird Treaty cities. NFWF will make its initial announcement and FWS will follow the next day.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE PROJECTS:** The NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Travel by Secretary

December 22- Jan 2

Secretary on leave

To: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Romanik, Peg[peg.romanik@sol.doi.gov]; John Carlucci[john.carlucci@sol.doi.gov]; Kathryn Jahn[Kathryn_Jahn@fws.gov]; Paul Phifer[paul_phifer@fws.gov]
From: Weber, Wendi
Sent: 2018-01-02T09:58:59-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, January 2, 2018
Received: 2018-01-02T09:59:17-05:00

Department Of Interior Suggests More Hudson Dredging Is Needed.

The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (12/29, Hamilton) reports that "an official with the U.S. Department of the Interior suggested earlier this month that more dredging for PCBs and additional habitat reconstruction in the Hudson River is necessary, despite assertions by General Electric Co. that it has completed clean-up work on a 40-mile stretch of the river." Kathryn Jahn, DOI's Hudson River case manager, "wrote to the director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Hudson River Field Office Dec. 13 that the department, along with state and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials, continues to be concerned about significant PCB contamination and its impacts on the river's ecosystem."

The [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (12/30) reports that "after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a letter to the U.S. EPA about the 'significant (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination left in the Hudson River,' Gov. Andrew Cuomo commended the agency for their letter and planned additional potential action against the EPA." Cuomo said, "We will not allow PCB contamination to continue wreaking havoc on this vital resource. If the EPA chooses to ignore the facts, we will partner with New York's Attorney General to sue the federal government and demand that the cleanup is completed once and for all."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 6:00 AM

Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, January 2, 2018

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018 6:00 AM EST

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- New York Times: U.S. To Roll Back Safety Rules Created After Deepwater Horizon Spill.
- Washington Post: To Round Out A Year Of Rollbacks, The Trump Administration Just Repealed Key Regulations On Fracking.
- Washington Post: How The Trump Era Is Changing The Federal Bureaucracy.

- Newsweek: Interior Department Tapped Wildfire Preparedness Funds For Ryan Zinke Helicopter Tour.

- NPR: After Bears Ears National Monument Shrinkage, The Fight For Redesignation Is Still On.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Ute Mountain Ute Film Earns Los Angeles Awards.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Casper (WY) Star Tribune: Feds Will No Longer Prioritize Oil And Gas Leasing Outside Of Imperiled Bird Habitat.

- Oregonian: NV Prosecutors Seek New Trial Against Bundys, Say Evidence Violations Were 'Inadvertent'.

- McAllen (TX) Monitor: Federal Land Agency Again Hosting Wild Horse, Burro Adoption.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- US Eyes Increased Pumping From Biggest Federal Water Project.

- Managing Water: Farmers, Scientists Work To Learn More About Bozeman Area Canal.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Albany (NY) Times Union: Department Of Interior Suggests More Hudson Dredging Is Needed.

- NPR: China's Ban On Its Domestic Ivory Trade Takes Effect..

- Detroit Free Press: Feds: We'll Grant Sandhill Crane Hunt If Michigan Asks.

- Maui (HI) Now: Dogs Utilized In Avian Botulism Detection.

National Park Service

- Memphis (TN) Daily News: Heritage Trail Historic Effort Get \$45K Federal Grant.

- WTOP FM Washington: Bicycle Beltway Expected To Get Regional Endorsement.

- St. Thomas Source: St. John: V.I. National Park Is Open But Facing Challenges.

- Associated Press: How CSU Students Fight Noise Pollution In National Parks.

- Associated Press: Grand Canyon Imposes Mandatory Water Conservation Measures.

- Associated Press: Holiday Crowds Jam Joshua Tree National Park.

- Associated Press: Researchers Look At Wildlife On Madeline Island.

- Associated Press: Boston's Faneuil Hall Closing For Renovations.

- KNTV TV San Jose (CA): National Park Service Changes Warning Signs At Ocean Beach Following NBC Bay Area Investigation.

- Associated Press: Boats Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Wall Street Journal: Trump Criticizes Post Office For Charging Amazon 'So Little'.

- Washington Post: 'We're Calling It The Poly Bowl': Virginia, Navy Coaching Staffs Bonded By Heritage.

- Web Wire: U.S. EPA, American Samoa Reach Revised Settlement With Starkist.

- Hawaii Public Radio: Pacific News Minute: Pacific News Projections For 2018: Decolonization.

- Marianas Variety: US Territories May Opt Out Of FirstNet.

- Papua New Guinea Today: Call For Freer Border Between Samoas.

- Marianas Variety: Regarding HR 339, The Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act.

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: NMI, Guam Ink Cooperation Accord.
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- Marianas Variety: Kilili Already Working With USCIS On Misclassification Of CWs.
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- Guam Daily Post: Governor Hiring DC Lobbyist.
- Marianas Variety: Guam Congressional Candidate Starts Building Campaign Team.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: 5.5M Earthquake Shakes Guam.
- Radio New Zealand: Guam Loses Out On Millions Of Dollars In Taxes.
- Independent (UK): Extent Of Hurricane Damage To Caribbean Coral Reefs Revealed By Scientists.
- Brinkwire: The Caribbean Is Stressed Out.
- Marketplace: Rebuilding Plays A Major Role In Economic Recovery Of The U.S.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: WAPA's '90 Percent Restored' Power A Moving Figure.
- St. Thomas Source: \$1.2 Million In Grants Awarded From Stephenson Family Fund.
- Electric Light & Power: Oklahoma Electric Coop Providing Mutual Aid To Virgin Islands.
- Radio New Zealand: New Life In Sweden For Refugees Stuck In FSM.
- Daily Mail: Ships Blocked By UN: Three From NKorea, One From Palau.
- Al Arabiya: Netanyahu Gifts Micronesian Island A Sewage Plant For UN Vote.

Opinion Pieces

- 2017 Man Of The Year: Ryan Zinke.
- Trump Can't Run The Government With Temps.
- Trump Should Tell His Lawyers To Stand Down On Land Powers.
- Trump Wrongly Cut Monuments Central To Our Vision For Public Lands.
- Op ed: Why I Stand With Rep. Curtis' National Monument Legislation.
- Drilling In The Arctic Refuge To Give Tax Cuts To The Rich Is Dangerously Stupid.
- North Dakota's Pipeline Payoff.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: Trump Calls For Change In "Failing" Iran As Protests Continue.
- Fox News: Trump: US Has Gotten "Nothing But Lies" Out Of Aid To Pakistan.
- Washington Times: Trump Offers Administration's Support For Iranian Protesters.
- CNN: Scientists, Lawmakers Criticize Trump Over Thursday Tweet On Cold Weather, Climate Change.
- ABC: Kim Jong Un Issues New Nuclear Threat To US, Extends Overture To Seoul.
- CNN: US Reiterates Need For International Pressure As North Korea Reportedly Prepares Missile Test.
- New York Times: Amid "Wave Of Optimism," Economy Gathering Steam.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
"A New Progressive Era' In New York City."
- Washington Post.

"The West Should Support The Protesters In Iran."

"How Trump And Congress Could Chart A Constructive Course In 2018."

"States Can Fix Republicans' Obamacare Mess."

- Wall Street Journal.

"About That Trump 'Autocracy.'"

"Tales From The Public School Crypt."

"Trump Gets The UN To Cut Spending."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

U.S. To Roll Back Safety Rules Created After Deepwater Horizon Spill.

The New York Times (12/28, Friedman, Tabuchi) reported the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is looking to reverse Obama-era offshore drilling safety regulations that were instituted after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. The agency said it is looking to reduce "unnecessary burdens" and save the industry \$228 million over 10 years. The BSEE said, "This proposed rule would fortify the Administration's objective of facilitating energy dominance." Director Scott Angelle said, "By reducing the regulatory burden on industry, we are encouraging increased domestic oil and gas production while maintaining a high bar for safety and environmental sustainability."

The Wall Street Journal (12/31, Mann) reported the proposed rollback has raised fundamental questions over the BSEE's role in promoting oil and gas production. The proposed changes explicitly look to put the agency in the position to promote private drilling interests. However, former officials say the BSEE was not intended to promote oil production, which was part of the rationale for splitting apart the previous agency, to separate the regulators from those who lease offshore oil fields and collect proceeds.

The AP (12/29) reported the regulations targeted blowout preventers, the piece of equipment that failed on the Deepwater Horizon. The rules required more frequent inspections of the devices and required that experts onshore monitor drilling of wells in real time. The BSEE is looking to give the industry flexibility in meeting safety and equipment standards rather than requiring specific compliance methods.

The Financial Times (12/29, Weaver) reported the industry cheered the announcement, while environmentalists said the rollback in regulations make another spill more likely. NBC News (12/29) reported the BSEE is also looking to lift the requirement that independent third parties certify that some safety and pollution prevention devices are able to function under extreme conditions. Instead, offshore drillers would use safety standards developed by the API. The public has 30 days to comment on the proposed changes.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/29, Schleifstein) reported Angelle said, "It's time for a paradigm shift in the way we regulate the OCS. ... There was an assumption made previously that only more rules would increase safety, but ultimately it is not an either/or proposition. We can actually increase domestic energy production and increase safety and environmental protection."

The [Houston Business Journal](#) (12/29, Pulsinelli) reported the director of the oceans program at the Center for Biological Diversity Miyoko Sakashita said, "Rolling back drilling safety standards while expanding offshore leasing is a recipe for disaster. ... By tossing aside the lessons from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Trump is putting our coasts and wildlife at risk of more deadly oil spills. Reversing offshore safety rules isn't just deregulation, it's willful ignorance."

Also reporting are [Yahoo! News](#) (12/29), [Platts](#) (12/29, Magill), the [Daily Caller](#) (12/29, Pearce), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/29, Passut), [World Oil](#) (12/29), [PennEnergy](#) (12/29, Snow), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (12/29, Snow), [Marine Log](#) (12/29), [Marine Link](#) (12/31, Lakshmi), [Maritime Executive](#) (12/29), [Slate](#) (12/29, Hannon), [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (12/30, Scully), the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (12/29, Young), the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (12/31), and the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (12/30, Gabriel).

To Round Out A Year Of Rollbacks, The Trump Administration Just Repealed Key Regulations On Fracking.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/29, Mooney) reported that on the last business day of 2017, the Bureau of Land Management rescinded an Obama-era rule aimed at regulating hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands. The rule had been tied up in court and had not yet taken effect. The Interior Department said reversing the rule "clears up that legal question and also lifts a costly regulation for the industry, in line with President Trump's agenda to slash regulations and advance the United States' 'energy dominance.'" Erik Milito, group director of upstream and industry operations at the American Petroleum Institute, said that "Adding a layer of duplicative federal regulations does not improve on the success of existing state and federal regulations." Milito warned, "If the rule were allowed to continue, development in several states, such as New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming, could have been especially hard hit with slowed permitting and limited access to public lands, stunting economic growth and pushing away jobs."

The [Williston \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/30, Jean) reported that in North Dakota, the regulations were expected to have an economic impact of up to \$120 million for wells on federal lands. Tessa Sandstrom with the North Dakota Petroleum Council commended the Interior Department's reversal of the rule, saying, "The rules proposed under the Obama Administration would have put additional unnecessary burdens and time constraints on an already slow permitting process."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (12/31, Richardson) and [Courthouse News](#) (12/29, Reese).

How The Trump Era Is Changing The Federal Bureaucracy.

In a more than 2,800-word front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (12/30, A1,

Rein, Tran) declares an analysis of federal personnel data reveals President Trump has already “made a significant down payment on his campaign pledge to shrink the federal bureaucracy, a shift long sought by conservatives that could eventually bring the workforce down to levels not seen in decades.” According to the Post, data shows “by the end of September, all Cabinet agencies except Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs and Interior had fewer permanent staff than when Trump took office in January – with most shedding many hundreds of employees.” The Post adds that the Administration’s effort “to reshape the workforce” has also “provoked a contentious culture shift,” as “federal workers fret their jobs could be zeroed out amid buyouts and early retirement offers that already have prompted hundreds of their colleagues to leave, according to interviews with three dozen employees across the government.”

Senate GOP Seeks To Change Rules For Trump Picks. The Hill (12/29, Carney) reports Senate Republicans have begun “mulling changing the Senate’s rules to speed up consideration of President Trump’s nominees.” Senate Rules Committee Chairman Richard Shelby said a proposal submitted by Sen. James Lankford “merely shortens what is currently an unreasonably long process.” According to The Hill, Lankford’s resolution lowers “post-cloture debate for non-Cabinet nominees...from 30 hours down to eight hours” while “for district court nominees – whose decisions can be overturned by federal circuit courts or the Supreme Court – debate would be limited to two hours.”

Interior Department Tapped Wildfire Preparedness Funds For Ryan Zinke Helicopter Tour.

Newsweek (12/29, Katz) reports that the Interior Department “says it made a mistake by trying to use wildfire preparedness funds to pay for an unrelated helicopter tour of Nevada taken by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke this summer.” According to internal emails, “officials initially said Zinke’s July 30 helicopter trip could be covered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Interagency Fire Center, a hub for the organization of response to wildfires – even though the secretary did not visit any fire zones that day.” However, “after Newsweek questioned the line item, an Interior Department spokeswoman said this week that the chopper – listed in an accounting of Zinke’s travel as costing \$39,295 – ‘was charged to the account in error.’” Spokeswoman Heather Swift “added that the BLM would pay for the helicopter from ‘a more appropriate account.’”

After Bears Ears National Monument Shrinkage, The Fight For Redesignation Is Still On.

On NPR (12/31), Shaun Chapoose, a tribal commissioner for the Bears Ears National Monument, talked “about what’s changed” for the monument. Chapoose explained “why he thinks the land is worth protecting,” the issue of federal control of public lands, and how tribal interests are preparing to fight the redesignation.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ute Mountain Ute Film Earns Los Angeles Awards.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (1/1, Mimiaga) reports that "a short dramatic film made by Ute Mountain Ute youths, has won two film awards." "The Strength of Siblings" centers "on substance abuse and the healing power of family." It is "part of a ongoing project funded through the Recidivism Reduction Initiative with a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of Justice Services."

Bureau Of Land Management

Feds Will No Longer Prioritize Oil And Gas Leasing Outside Of Imperiled Bird Habitat.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/31, Richards) reports that the Interior Department on Friday published a notice of intent "to potentially change the more than 90 management plans concerning" the sage grouse "across its 11-state habitat." Meanwhile, the Bureau of Land Management "instructed its field office Thursday that they did not have to prioritize leasing for oil and gas outside of the birds habitat." The directive "also update guidelines for grazing, habitat goals and triggers that warn of a damaged habitat."

[KGWN-TV](#) Cheyenne, WY (12/29, Downing) reports that Brian Steed, BLM's Deputy Director for Programs and Policy, said, "The updated policies are in response to concerns raised by the states, local partners and our own field staff. They were developed from the ground up with the goal of improving sagebrush habitat while permitting measured economic and recreational activity."

Also reporting is the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (12/29). Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/30, Richards) and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (1/1, Rindels).

NV Prosecutors Seek New Trial Against Bundys, Say Evidence Violations Were 'Inadvertent'.

The [Oregonian](#) (12/29, Bernstein) reports that "prosecutors on Friday urged a federal judge to allow them to retry Nevada cattleman Cliven Bundy, his two sons and a fourth man, arguing that any failure to provide evidence to the defense in the last trial was simply 'inadvertent' or because they reasonably believed the law didn't require them to share the material." The prosecutors argue "they couldn't simply turn over all the material, citing 'harassment and threats' made to witnesses, victims and officers in the case who would be in jeopardy if personal information got out, especially on social media." They also pointed to "the massive volume of documents, videos and emails from two federal agencies and Las Vegas and Nevada law enforcement agencies that they needed to cull, and the constraints of the U.S. attorney's 'low-tech' database."

Federal Land Agency Again Hosting Wild Horse, Burro Adoption.

The [McAllen \(TX\) Monitor](#) (12/31, Villalobos) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "bringing a combined 35 burros and horses – including mares, geldings and yearlings – for a two-day adoption and sale event" at the Rio

Grande Valley Livestock Show in Mercedes

Bureau Of Reclamation

US Eyes Increased Pumping From Biggest Federal Water Project.

The [AP](#) (12/29) reports that the Trump Administration "said Friday it will look at revving up water deliveries to farmers from California's Central Valley Project, the largest federal water project in the United States, in what environmental groups called a threat to protections for struggling native salmon and other endangered species." The Bureau of Reclamation "formally served notice it would begin looking at changing the operation of the massive California water project to maximize water deliveries." Spokeswoman Erin Curtis "called it the first step in what would likely be an 18-month analysis."

Managing Water: Farmers, Scientists Work To Learn More About Bozeman Area Canal.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/30, Wright) reports that "a group of irrigators will work with water scientists to learn more about how water moves through a canal that cuts through Bozeman and delivers their water." According to the article, "the Farmers Canal Company is working with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology on a monitoring project along Farmers Canal, which begins near Gallatin Gateway and flows northeast through farmland before being piped north through Bozeman." The Farmers Canal Company "won a \$100,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for the project, which is matched by \$100,000 from the Bureau of Mines and Geology."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Department Of Interior Suggests More Hudson Dredging Is Needed.

The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (12/29, Hamilton) reports that "an official with the U.S. Department of the Interior suggested earlier this month that more dredging for PCBs and additional habitat reconstruction in the Hudson River is necessary, despite assertions by General Electric Co. that it has completed clean-up work on a 40-mile stretch of the river." Kathryn Jahn, DOI's Hudson River case manager, "wrote to the director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Hudson River Field Office Dec. 13 that the department, along with state and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials, continues to be concerned about significant PCB contamination and its impacts on the river's ecosystem."

The [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (12/30) reports that "after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a letter to the U.S. EPA about the 'significant (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination left in the Hudson River,' Gov. Andrew Cuomo commended the agency for their letter and planned additional potential action against the EPA." Cuomo said, "We will not allow PCB contamination to continue wreaking havoc on this vital resource. If the EPA chooses to ignore the facts, we will partner with New York's Attorney General to sue the federal government and demand that the cleanup is completed once and for all."

China's Ban On Its Domestic Ivory Trade Takes Effect..

NPR (1/1, Dwyer) reports that China's "ban on the domestic sale and processing of ivory and its products took effect on Sunday, making good on a commitment Chinese authorities made at the beginning of 2017." The ban, "which effectively closes one of the world's largest ivory markets, has been hailed by conservationists as a crucial step toward combating elephant poaching." The move "follows a similar measure instituted in the U.S. in 2016, when the Fish and Wildlife Service implemented a 'near-total' ban to reduce the movement of ivory within U.S. borders." The article notes that "both the U.S. and China – long the two largest markets for ivory products, according to Humane Society International – had been negotiating on their proposed ivory regulations since 2015."

Additional coverage was provided by the Huffington Post (12/30, D'Angelo).

Feds: We'll Grant Sandhill Crane Hunt If Michigan Asks.

The Detroit Free Press (1/1, Matheny) reports that "a controversial proposal to hunt sandhill cranes in Michigan for the first time in generations would be supported by the agency that gets the final say if state officials ever ask for a hunt: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the chief of the federal agency's migratory bird program said." Tom Cooper, chief of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's migratory bird program, said that if Michigan follows the section of the plan laying out the sandhill crane harvest strategy, "the Fish and Wildlife Service would likely grant them a season," he said.

Dogs Utilized In Avian Botulism Detection.

The Maui (HI) Now (12/29) reports that "dogs are currently being trained at the Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge to sniff out endangered ducks (Koloa maoli) that have died from avian botulism." The article notes that "since 2011, avian botulism has killed over 1,200 endangered waterbirds at the Refuge." Heather Tonneson, Refuge Manager of the Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex, said, "If you can detect the first case of avian botulism more effectively, you then have an opportunity to stop the outbreak quickly."

National Park Service

Heritage Trail Historic Effort Get \$45K Federal Grant.

The Memphis (TN) Daily News (1/1, Dries) reports that the National Park Service has "approved a \$45,000 federal grant to the city of Memphis for the continued development of the Memphis Heritage Trail area." Rep. Steve Cohen said, "This funding through the National Park Service will help to further develop the Memphis Heritage Trail, which is an important American cultural and artistic landmark." The money comes from the Historic Preservation Fund.

Bicycle Beltway Expected To Get Regional Endorsement.

WTOP-FM Washington (12/29, Smith) reports that "a new bicycle beltway is set

to be endorsed” by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Transportation Planning Board in January. The full Outer Loop would be 45 miles long. According to the article, “the beltway would also have additional connections in the middle, through the heart of downtown D.C. along the National Mall, that would bring the total marked trail to about 60 miles long.” The National Park Service’s plans “call for these trails to be branded as the ‘National Capital Trail.’”

St. John: V.I. National Park Is Open But Facing Challenges.

The St. Thomas Source (1/1, Roberts) reports that “all trails, roads and beaches within” the Virgin Islands National Park are “now open, thanks to the efforts of Virgin Islands National Park staff and 445 people on loan from the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and Department of Fish and Wildlife who were deployed to St. John.” However, amenities are limited. VINP Acting Superintendent Darrell Echols’ “major concerns now are finding housing and office space for park employees, and repairing damaged roads and utility systems.” According to the article, “estimates for recovery and reconstruction costs have been sent to NPS management in Washington, D.C., but the VINP is competing with dozens of parks and numerous other government agencies for federal funding.”

How CSU Students Fight Noise Pollution In National Parks.

The AP (12/30, Brasch) reports that at Colorado State University, students work “to preserve the natural soundscapes of America’s most protected places.” Jacob Job, who runs the CSU Listening Lab for the National Parks’ Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, said the students are “helping to make meaningful change in the parks.”

Grand Canyon Imposes Mandatory Water Conservation Measures.

The AP (12/30) reports that Grand Canyon National Park has “imposed mandatory water conservation measures due to a water pump failure.” According to the article, “with the pump inoperable, park officials say water is not flowing to the South Rim so conservation guidelines were implemented for all consumers on the South Rim, Desert View and Hermit’s Rest.” Crews are expected to start repair work next week.

Holiday Crowds Jam Joshua Tree National Park.

The AP (12/29) reports that “holiday crowds are jamming Joshua Tree National Park and authorities are urging visitors to have a backup plan, including other locations in the deserts of Southern California.” According to park officials, “wait times to enter the park can be as long as an hour and all campgrounds within Joshua Tree are full.”

Researchers Looks At Wildlife On Madeline Island.

The AP (12/30) reports that “researchers in northern Wisconsin have placed trail cameras on Madeline Island to gather a better picture of the wildlife diversity on

Lake Superior's Apostle Islands." According to the article, "10 students and a natural resources professor from Northland College scouted areas with low human traffic in the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve and the Big Bay State Park to place 25 cameras." The article says that "it's an expansion of an existing project between the National Park Service and the University of Wisconsin-Madison."

Boston's Faneuil Hall Closing For Renovations.

The AP (12/31) reports that Boston's historic Faneuil Hall is "closing in January for some much-needed repairs." According to officials, "the 275-year-old building will close starting Monday for renovations that include upgraded elevator services and improved heating and cooling." The National Park Service ranger station will "temporarily relocate to State Street during the work."

National Park Service Changes Warning Signs At Ocean Beach Following NBC Bay Area Investigation.

KNTV-TV San Jose, CA (12/29, Wagner) reports that the National Park Service, which is in charge of safety at San Francisco's Ocean Beach, "changed the signs in December to say 'wading, swimming and surfing not advised.'" The NPS "updated 55 signs along the water's edge following an NBC Bay Area investigation, which pointed out that the message on the signs didn't reflect the Park Service's public announcements that Ocean Beach is not a swimming beach."

Boats Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The AP (12/30, Backus) reports that "for the second time in two years, historic boats operated by the Glacier Park Boat Company have been added to the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places." Last year, the AP says, "the 1920s-era tour boat originally named the Rising Wolf was added to the national register." In December, "its sisters, the 45-foot-long Little Chief and the 56-foot DeSmet, were accepted."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Criticizes Post Office For Charging Amazon 'So Little'.

The Wall Street Journal (12/29, Lombardo, Ziobro) reports President Trump on Friday called on the US Postal Service to raise its rates, citing the cheap delivery offered by Amazon.com Inc. and its competitors. He tweeted, "Why is the United States Post Office, which is losing many billions of dollars a year, while charging Amazon and others so little to deliver their packages, making Amazon richer and the Post Office dumber and poorer? Should be charging MUCH MORE!"

According to the Washington Post (12/29, Fung), the President "is probably referring to a partnership between the Postal Service and Amazon in which the Postal Service carries Amazon packages in the last leg of their journeys to customers' doorsteps." The Post adds Trump's remarks are "just the latest in a series of digs by the president at Amazon, whose chief executive, Jeffrey P.

Bezos, owns The Washington Post.” The Post says that while “Trump’s tweet misses some nuances of the arrangement between Amazon and the Postal Service,” his post “underscores a real debate about whether the USPS is charging Amazon – and other retailers – enough to deliver packages.”

‘We’re Calling It The Poly Bowl’: Virginia, Navy Coaching Staffs Bonded By Heritage.

The Washington Post (12/27, Wallace) reported on Thursday’s Military Bowl between Virginia and Navy, informally called the “Poly Bowl” because of ties to the American Samoa on both teams.

U.S. EPA, American Samoa Reach Revised Settlement With Starkist.

Web Wire (12/27) reports that “the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have reached a revised \$6.5 million settlement with Starkist Co. and its subsidiary, Starkist Samoa Co., to resolve federal environmental violations at their tuna processing facility in American Samoa.” The article says that “in addition to the \$6.3 million penalty announced in September, Starkist will pay \$200,000 to address alleged Clean Water Act (CWA) violations found before the original consent decree was finalized by the court.” The firm will “also provide \$88,000 in emergency equipment to American Samoa for responses to chemical releases.”

Pacific News Minute: Pacific News Projections For 2018: Decolonization.

Hawaii Public Radio (12/28, Conan) reports that decolonization will be a top issue in the coming year. According to the article, “for many years, American Samoa expressed satisfaction with its territorial status, but recently started to raise questions about its future relations with Washington.”

US Territories May Opt Out Of FirstNet.

Marianas Variety (12/29, Cagurangan) reports that “U.S. territories have until March 12, 2018 to decide whether or not to participate in the FirstNet Radio Access Network, the communications network for America’s first responders.” FirstNet has “not yet delivered final buildout plans to the territories of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.”

Call For Freer Border Between Samoas.

Papua New Guinea Today (1/1) reports that “a call has been made in the Samoa parliament to get rid of entry permits for American Samoans wanting to visit Samoa.” by Member of Parliament for Urban West Faumuina Wayne Fong “said while travellers from all other countries were free to stay in Samoa for 90 days, American Samoans were not given the same privilege and he said that isn’t fair.”

Regarding HR 339, The Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act.

Marianas Variety (12/22) reports that U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan issued a statement Thursday on HR 339, The Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act. Additional coverage was provided by the Saipan (MNP) Tribune

(12/28, Quitugua).

NMI, Guam Ink Cooperation Accord.

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (12/28, Encinares) reports that "a non-binding memorandum of understanding between Guam and the CNMI outlines a plan for both U.S. jurisdictions to work together on issues that affect both areas such as immigration and tourism." Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the MOU last December.

USCIS Reaches H-2B Visa Cap For The First Half Of The Fiscal Year 2018.

American Bazaar (12/27, Sood) reports that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services "announced on Thursday that it has reached the H-2B cap for the FY 2018." USCIS said in a press statement, "Dec. 15, 2017, was the final receipt date for new H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date before April 1, 2018. USCIS will reject new cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Dec. 15 that request an employment start date before April 1, 2018."

Kilili Already Working With USCIS On Misclassification Of CWs.

Marianas Variety (12/22) reports that U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan will "take any specific cases of CW applicants misclassified as new construction workers to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for review."

H-visas 'Don't Make Sense' In NMI.

Marianas Variety (12/22, Villahermosa) reports that "the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. president said the H-visa program 'doesn't make sense' in the CNMI." Addressing the Society for Human Resources Management at Saipan World Resort on Thursday, "Alex Sablan and other NMBAC officers discussed their recent trip to Washington, D.C. where they asked federal officials to address the islands' workforce crisis." Sablan "said CNMI small businesses will be hurt badly by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' decision to reduce the CW cap by 3,000 this fiscal year."

Governor Hiring DC Lobbyist.

The Guam Daily Post (12/29, O'Connor) reports that Gov. Eddie Calvo is seeking "proposals for lobbying services to advance Guam's interests in Washington, D.C., including such issues as flexibility to hire foreign labor and the uncontrolled migration of citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia." Calvo said, "in my seven years of visiting Washington, D.C., it has become more apparent that we need to have a constant and consistent presence; people who are able to track conversations, voice our objections, and inject our concerns and solutions into the discussion before new policies are cemented."

Guam Congressional Candidate Starts Building Campaign Team.

Marianas Variety (12/29, Cagurangan) reports that Sen. Michael San Nicolas, "who is challenging incumbent Guam delegate Madeleine Bordallo in the August

Democratic primary," is "tapping a former congressional candidate and a relative of the Republican governor to join his campaign for the Washington D.C. seat." According to the article, "San Nicolas's appointment of Karlo Dizon, and attorney and Shelly V. Calvo, a businesswoman and sister-in-law of Gov. Eddie Calvo, is seen as a move to win the Filipino-American vote." Dizon will serve as the counsel to San Nicolas' campaign.

5.5M Earthquake Shakes Guam.

The Pacific (GUM) Daily News (12/28, Watanabe) reports that "a magnitude 5.5 earthquake shook Guam Thursday morning." According to the U.S. Geological Survey, "the earthquake struck at 9:58 a.m., and was centered about 87 miles south-southwest of Merizo, at a depth of about 9 miles."

Guam Loses Out On Millions Of Dollars In Taxes.

Radio New Zealand (12/27) reports that "an audit report released this week in Guam has revealed tax exemptions between 2014 and 2016 amounted to \$US210 million in lost government revenue." The report from the Office of Public Accountability "shows the revenue lost from granting Gross Receipts Tax exemptions was over a three year period."

Extent Of Hurricane Damage To Caribbean Coral Reefs Revealed By Scientists.

The Independent (UK) (12/27, Gabbatiss) reports that "early investigations of coral reefs in the US Virgin Islands have revealed severe damage resulting from hurricanes Maria and Irma, which struck the region this year." Exploring the reefs off the island of St John, scientists found "in some places coral colonies had branches ripped off and 'open wounds' in which harmful bacteria and algae were growing." And "elsewhere, entire colonies had been swept away by the storms."

The Caribbean Is Stressed Out.

Brinkwire (12/28) reports that "a team including Smithsonian marine biologists just released 25 years of data about the health of Caribbean coasts from the Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Program (CARICOMP)." The report "provides new insights into the influence of both local and global stressors in the basin, and some hope that the observed changes can be reversed by local environmental management." The study "revealed that water quality decreased at 42 percent of the monitoring stations across the basin." But "significant increases in water temperature, expected in the case of global warming, were not detected across sites."

Rebuilding Plays A Major Role In Economic Recovery Of The U.S.

Virgin Islands. Marketplace (12/28, Adams, Velasco, Long) reports that about two months after the U.S. Virgin Islands were struck with two Category 5 hurricane, Gov. Kenneth Mapp talked "about the importance of rebuilding and the work left to repair the power grid, schools, hospitals and more."

WAPA's '90 Percent Restored' Power A Moving Figure.

The Virgin Islands Daily News (12/28, O'CONNOR) reports that "officials at the V.I. Water and Power Authority said Tuesday they had accomplished a 90 percent restoration of the territory's electric grid." But acting Executive Director Clinton Hedrington Jr. "said Wednesday the utility had removed a number of meters from the total, either because the homes in question were destroyed, or because the weather head, which connects the transmission system to an individual building, was damaged and a certified electrician hadn't yet evaluated the property." He said, "That number moves. So it may be whatever it was up to a certain point."

\$1.2 Million In Grants Awarded From Stephenson Family Fund.

The St. Thomas Source (12/27) reports that "more than half of the initial \$2 million pledged by the Stephenson family for hurricane relief and recovery efforts is being allocated in an initial series of grants to entities serving the Virgin Islands community in the areas of healthcare, education, and social services, according to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands."

Oklahoma Electric Coop Providing Mutual Aid To Virgin Islands.

Electric Light & Power (12/28) reports that the Grand River Dam Authority is "increasing its participation to help restore power in United States Virgin Islands." According to the article, "10 GRDA employees, including electric line workers, mechanics and vegetation management personnel, left for the US Virgin Islands, along with eight vehicles, to assist with the ongoing effort to repair the damage left behind by two category 5 hurricanes in September."

New Life In Sweden For Refugees Stuck In FSM.

Radio New Zealand (12/28) reports that "four Nepalese refugees who were stuck on Micronesian islands for nearly three years have found a new life in Sweden." The men departed the Federated States of Micronesia in September "after being detained at wharves on Yap and Pohnpei as authorities determined their status and tried to find them a home." They were "among a boatload of Indian and Nepalese men who arrived near starving on Yap in November 2014 and were the only ones given refugee status in 2016."

Ships Blocked By UN: Three From NKorea, One From Palau.

The Daily Mail (12/29) reports that "of the four ships blocked from international ports under UN sanctions on North Korea, three are registered in the isolated country and a fourth flies the flag of Palau, according to the final list adopted by the world body." According to the article, "the ships in questions are the Palau-flagged oil tanker Billions 18, and the North Korean vessels Ul Ji Bong 6, Rung Ra 2 and Rye Song Gang 1."

Netanyahu Gifts Micronesian Island A Sewage Plant For UN Vote.

Al Arabiya (12/29) reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

"approved a request from the president of the republic of Nauru and donated the country a \$72,000 wastewater treatment plant." According to the article, "to return the favor, Nauru was among the nine UN members who voted against the UN resolution to condemn US President Trump's decision on Jerusalem."

Opinion Pieces

2017 Man Of The Year: Ryan Zinke.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/31) picked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke as its "2017 Man Of The Year." The paper notes that when Zinke was falsely accused of killing an elephant, he "set the record straight" by tweeting: "The only thing I've hunted in Africa is terrorists. #GotEm #NoBaggingLimit". Also, "on his first day on the job as Secretary of the Interior, Zinke rode to the office on horseback."

Trump Can't Run The Government With Temps.

A [Bloomberg View](#) (12/29) editorial asserted, "In at least one respect, Donald Trump's presidency is already historic: Never before has a president left so many senior jobs vacant for so long." While Bloomberg conceded reducing the bureaucracy is "not a terrible idea," the editorial argued Trump "is going about it in a spectacularly wrongheaded way." According to Bloomberg, "Aside from being managerial malpractice, this negligence may be illegal: At least a dozen administration officials are currently serving in a temporary capacity, even though the administration hasn't nominated anyone for the job," which is a violation of the 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act.

Trump Should Tell His Lawyers To Stand Down On Land Powers.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (1/1, Pendley), William Perry Pendley, president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, urges President Trump to "order federal lawyers to end their defense of a million-acre federal land lockup by the Obama administration and instead to acknowledge that the Property Clause gives Congress exclusive power over federal lands." In 2012, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, "over the objections of federal land experts but to the delight of environmental extremists, withdrew more than a million acres of uranium-rich federal lands in northwestern Arizona, uranium that could power Los Angeles for 154 years." In a recent decision, a Ninth Circuit panel ruled "that Congress was so determined to give the executive land withdrawal authority, it would have done so without the 'one-House veto.'"

Trump Wrongly Cut Monuments Central To Our Vision For Public Lands.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/29, Trimble), Stephen Trimble, who serves on the board of Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, criticizes President Trump's proclamations reducing Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. Trimble believes that the lawsuits filed in protest of the decisions will "find Trump in violation of the law."

Op-ed: Why I Stand With Rep. Curtis' National Monument Legislation.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/30, Ben), Alfred Ben, vice president of Aneth Chapter, explains why “many Utah Native voices were against the Bears Ears Monument designation” and why his chapter, “the closest one to Bears Ears,” passed “resolutions requesting Bears Ears National Monument designation be reversed by the president himself.” However, “Utah Navajo would like to see are lasting protections for the area.” He supports the Shásh Jaa’ National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act, or HR 4532, introduced by Rep. John Curtis, which would create “a truly Native American management body where none existed before — one the public can be involved with.”

Drilling In The Arctic Refuge To Give Tax Cuts To The Rich Is Dangerously Stupid.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/29) wrote that luck and market moving away from fossil fuels may spare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, despite the GOP’s efforts to open the region to exploration through the tax reform bill. The editorial says “market forces, environmental laws and the courts could still save the refuge from drilling.” While the bill requires Congress to hold two oil lease sales in the next eight years, there is no guarantee that any leases will be sold. The LA Times editorial board says “With fracking helping fuel an oil glut, oil prices remain relatively low, and the costs and risks of drilling in the region are high — especially since there is no pipeline or transportation infrastructure in the 1002 area.”

North Dakota’s Pipeline Payoff.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/29) editorializes that the latest economic data from North Dakota reveals the state has benefited in the six months since the Dakota Access Pipeline began operations. The Journal asserts North Dakotans deserve to enjoy the benefits of the pipeline given they had to put up with the unruly protesters who tried to stop the project.

Additional Reading.

- *Zinke May Be The Public Lands ‘Manchurian Candidate’.* [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (1/2).
- *When Will Guam Say Enough Is Enough?* [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (12/29, Mead).
- *Speed Up Efforts To Deport Heinous Criminals.* [Guam Daily Post](#) (12/26).
- *Cohen: Forget The UN – Canada’s Foreign Policy Is All About The U.S.* [Ottawa \(CAN\) Citizen](#) (12/27, Cohen).
- *OPINION- Editorial: Uncle Sucker No More?* [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (12/28).
- *Caribbean Must Act On This Great First Step.* [Jamaica Observer](#) (12/27).
- *How A Melting Arctic Changes Everything.* [Bloomberg Business](#) (12/29, Migliozi).
- *James Gill: Donald Trump’s Task For Scott Angelle? Destroy All Traces Of Obama Reforms.* [New Orleans Advocate](#) (12/30, Gill).
- *EDITORIAL: Donald Trump Repeals Yet Another Obama Regulation.* [Las Vegas](#)




[Review-Journal](#) (1/2).

- ***Our View: Federal Prosecutors Took The Low Road In Bundy Case.*** [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (1/2).
- ***2018 Is A Crucial Year For Businesses To Stand Up For Public Lands.*** The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/29, Hayes)
- ***Guest Opinion: Stand Up For Public Lands In 2018.*** [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/31, Hayes).
- ***Gehrke: These Unsent Tweets Are The Only Way To Explain How Wild 2017 Was.*** [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/1, Gehrke).
- ***Lee Orr: Public Lands, Hunting Heritage Should Be Defended.*** [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (12/31, Orr).
- ***Montana Teen Hunter Says No To Lifting Elephant Trophy Ban.*** [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/29, Carr).
- ***Community Ag Alliance: Partners Program Benefits 'Species Of Interest'.*** [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (12/29, O'Toole).
- ***The DOI And EPA Are In Tatters.*** [EcoWatch](#) (12/29, Palmer).

Top National News

Trump Calls For Change In “Failing” Iran As Protests Continue.

On Monday, President Trump [tweeted](#), “Iran is failing at every level despite the terrible deal made with them by the Obama Administration. The great Iranian people have been repressed for many years. They are hungry for food & for freedom. Along with human rights, the wealth of Iran is being looted. TIME FOR CHANGE!” All three networks last night reported on the President’s tweet.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)  (1/1, story 5, 1:10, Llamas) reported that with the protests now in their fifth day, “President Trump [is] adding fuel to the fire,” while [NBC Nightly News](#)  (1/1, story 5, 2:15, Alexander) said the President “voice[d] his support for the protesters.” Hallie Jackson said, “So far, the protests are Iran’s biggest since the 2009 so-called ‘Green Revolution.’ ... Then, President Obama preferred a more cautious approach. This time, President Trump appears unafraid to insert himself into the unrest.” The [CBS Evening News](#)  (1/1, story 5, 1:50, Duncan) also briefly noted that the President has “been tweeting his support for protesters in Iran.”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/31, Kredo) says Trump has “expressed solidarity with anti-Iranian regime protesters” that are “fed up with the skyrocketing prices of food and other basic necessities,” while the [Daily Caller](#) (1/1, Enjeti) said he “harshly criticized” the Iranian government. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/1, Egbali, Fitch, Gordon) reports the Administration is lobbying nations to support the right of Iranians to carry out peaceful protests, US officials said.

The [AP](#) (1/1) reports that while “some have shared Trump’s tweets, many in Iran distrust him as he’s refused to re-certify the nuclear deal and because his travel bans have blocked Iranians from getting US visas.” [Politico](#) (1/1, Beynon) notes his tweet Monday “followed one from Sunday,” where he [wrote](#): “The people are finally getting wise as to how their money and wealth is being stolen

and squandered on terrorism. Looks like they will not take it any longer.” Townhall (1/1, Barkoukis) likewise notes Monday wasn’t “the first time the president has commented on the events in Iran in recent days.”

Townhall (1/1, Brown) reports Vice President Pence also tweeted support for the protesters Monday. “As long as @RealDonaldTrump is POTUS and I am VP, the United States of America will not repeat the shameful mistake of our past when others stood by and ignored the heroic resistance of the Iranian people as they fought against their brutal regime,” Pence said in a series of tweets.

Bloomberg News (1/1, Dopp) too notes the President’s tweet, and reports that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, “seeking to calm the unrest, on Sunday defended the Iranian people’s right to protest while urging them to work with his administration to address what he said were justified grievances about the economy.” The CBS Evening News (1/1, story 5, 1:50, Duncan) reported Rouhani offered a “surprisingly measured response,” saying “people did have a legitimate right to protest, as long as there was no violence. That may have been a warning to the security forces, too. This is a volatile, dangerous situation, and he knows that a lethal crackdown could send it spiraling out of control.”

By contrast, in the lead story for Fox News’ Special Report (1/1), Jennifer Griffin reported that Rouhani “hinted at a crackdown.” Fox showed Rouhani saying, “We don’t tolerate those groups disrupting the public order or sparking riots in the society.” Griffin added that reports late Monday said an Iranian policeman was shot and killed by a protester, raising “concerns that this could be used as an excuse by the regime to crackdown.”

Reuters (1/1) says the shooting marked “the first reported fatality among security forces,” and the Los Angeles Times (1/1, Mostaghim, Bengali) reports the death toll in the five days of protests now stands at 12. The AP (1/1, Karimi, Gambrell) reports state-run TV said Monday that “armed protesters” tried to overrun military bases and police stations before security forces repelled them.

According to the Wall Street Journal (1/1, Egbali, Fitch), unverified social media reports indicate that protests are taking place in Tehran and other parts of the country, including Shadegan and Kangavar in western Iran. The New York Times (1/1, Erdbrink) reports security forces “clamped down on Tehran on Monday after demonstrators across the country ignored calls for calm.” Riot police with water cannons “were out in full force in Tehran, deploying at strategic points.” Breitbart (1/1, Nazarian) reports that “hundreds of people have also been arrested.”

Former Obama Advisers Tell Trump To “Be Quiet”; WPost Backs President. Breitbart (1/1, Pollak) reports that “several key advisers” to former President Obama have “poured scorn” on President Trump’s support for the protests in Iran. In 2009, when the so-called “Green Revolution” threatened the Iranian regime, the Obama Administration “refrained from supporting the protests,” while Trump has taken “the opposite approach, vigorously supporting the protests and criticizing the regime.” Former National Security Adviser Susan Rice tweeted a recent New York Times op-ed by former Obama aide Philip Gordon, “How Can Trump Help Iran’s Protesters? Be Quiet,” in which he “argues that

supporting the protests, and taking steps to end the Iran nuclear deal, will only help the regime to delegitimize its internal opponents." Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was "more supportive of the protesters, but said merely that she 'hope[d]' the Iranian regime would listen to them," and her successor, John Kerry, "endorsed Obama's 2009 position once more," stating that "it's an Iranian moment and not anyone else's."

A Washington Post (1/1) editorial, however, says President Trump "has been right to tweet his backing for the demonstrators; European leaders, who have been far more cautious, should speak up." At the same time, the Post says Trump "should avoid acts that would undercut the protests and empower the regime's hard-liners. Foremost among these would be a renunciation of the 2015 nuclear accord," which it says would "divide the United States from European governments when they should be coordinating their response to the uprising, and it would give the regime an external threat against which to rally. Reform of the nuclear accord can wait. Now is the time for Mr. Trump to focus on supporting the people of Iran."

Michael Singh of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy writes in the Washington Post (1/1) that the Obama Administration responded to the 2009 demonstrations "with diffidence, prompting criticism from left and right alike," so it "should thus come as little surprise that President Trump – fresh off repudiating Obama's nuclear deal with Iran – has taken the opposite tack and thrown his weight behind the protesters." Singh, however, cautions that Western officials "should avoid projecting their own hopes onto the Iranian protesters" and "keep their expectations of the protests in check."

Mark Dubowitz, chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and former US Ambassador to Israel Daniel B. Shapiro write for Politico Magazine (1/1) that "Americans of both parties should speak up" in support of the protesters, who "are looking for support from abroad." This, they argue, "is an important moment. The Iranian protests could contribute, one day, to a peaceful Iran leveraging the initiative of its remarkable people to build a free and prosperous society, at peace with its neighbors and the United States. That goal – even as we still argue about the nuclear deal – should unite our fractious political elites, at least on one issue."

Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and Ray Takeyh of the Council on Foreign Relations likewise write in the Wall Street Journal (1/1) that the protesters are looking to the US to support their struggle and urge the White House to continue issuing daily condemnations and impose new sanctions targeting corruption and human-rights abuses.

UN, Europe Silent On Protests; Netanyahu Voices Support. Breitbart (1/1, Hayward) reports that in addition to President Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has offered "enthusiastic support" for Iranian protesters, while the UN and European leaders "have remained conspicuously silent." On Twitter, Netanyahu wished the Iranian people "success in their noble quest for freedom."

Israeli Report: Tehran Caught Off Guard By Protests. Barak Ravid Of Israel's Channel 10 News writes for Axios (1/1, Ravid) that on Monday he published "the

details of a classified foreign ministry report about the Iran protests," which claims the Iranian regime was "surprised by the mass protest and is now trying to contain it." At the same time, the report says, "many Iranians fear the Iran protests might lead to chaos like in other countries in the region (Syria)."

Critics Accuse NYTimes Of Taking Iranian Regime's Side. The Washington Examiner (1/1, Antle) reports that the New York Times was criticized Monday for tweeting that the Iranian government cracked down on protesters "after demonstrators across the country ignored calls for calm." The accompanying news story also described the crackdown as taking place after "demonstrators across the country ignored calls for calm by President Hassan Rouhani." Critics said the newspaper was "downplaying the Iranian regime's role in the violence and at least giving the appearance of blaming the protesters."

Trump: US Has Gotten "Nothing But Lies" Out Of Aid To Pakistan.

On Monday, President Trump tweeted, "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" Media coverage is light, and notes the angry response from Pakistani officials.

None of the networks covered the tweet, but Fox News' Special Report (1/1) said the President began the New Year by issuing a "blistering critique on relations with Pakistan." Reuters (1/1) says it was "not immediately clear what prompted Trump's criticism of Pakistan," but the New York Times reported over the weekend that US officials "had sought but been denied access to a member of the Taliban-linked Haqqani network captured in Pakistan who potentially could provide information about at least one American hostage." A National Security Council official said later Monday that the Administration does not plan to send \$255 million in aid to Pakistan "at this time" and said "the Administration continues to review Pakistan's level of cooperation."

Bloomberg News (1/1, Sink) quotes a National Security Council spokesperson as saying the President has "made it clear" that he expects Pakistan to take strong action to fight terrorism. The country's efforts against terrorism "will ultimately determine the trajectory of our relationship, including future security assistance," the spokesperson added. The New York Post (1/1, Steinbuch) says the President "hinted that he may cut off the aid for good" last month when he released his National Security Strategy, and the Daily Caller (1/1, Racke) similarly notes that Trump "has publicly expressed frustration with Pakistan before."

The AP (1/1, Gannon) reports Pakistan "had no official comment," but Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif tweeted that his government was preparing a response that "will let the world know the truth." Pakistan's Geo Television quoted Asif as saying: "We have already said 'no more' to America, so Trump's 'no more' has no importance. We are ready to give all account for every single penny to America in public." Asif said Trump's tweet was borne out of frustration "over defeat in Afghanistan. America should take the path of dialogue instead of using military might in Afghanistan."

The Washington Post (1/1, Hussein, Gowen) reports Pakistan's defense minister also "responded angrily" to Trump's tweet. Defense Minister Khurram Dastgir-Khan "hit back" on Twitter, writing that Pakistan, as an "anti-terror ally" of the US, had given Washington land and air communication, military bases and intelligence cooperation that "decimated Al-Qaeda over the last 16yrs" while America "has given us nothing but invective and mistrust." The Post says Pakistani officials "scrambled to arrange a cabinet meeting to be held Tuesday to adopt a response to the Twitter attack."

The Los Angeles Times (1/1, Sahi, Bengali) reports US Ambassador David Hale was also "summoned to the Foreign Ministry to discuss the president's statement, US Embassy spokesman Richard Snelsire said." Pakistan lodged a "strongly worded protest and asked for clarification about Trump's comments, according to two foreign office officials." The Washington Examiner (1/1, Siegel) similarly reports the response by Pakistan.

Pakistan To Seize Control Of Two LeT-Linked Charities. According to a Reuters (1/1) exclusive, the Pakistani government "plans to seize control of charities and financial assets linked to Islamist leader Hafiz Saeed, who Washington has designated a terrorist, according to officials and documents." Pakistan detailed its plans in "a secret order to various provincial and federal government departments on Dec. 19, three officials who attended one of several high-level meetings discussing the crackdown told Reuters." The government plans a "takeover" of Saeed's two charities, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation, which the US has labeled as "terrorist fronts" for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Trump Offers Administration's Support For Iranian Protesters.

President Trump on Saturday extended his Administration's support for Iranians protesting for the third day against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the regime's economic policies. The media coverage, which was mostly favorable to Trump, also highlighted that his remarks come amid reports that at least two demonstrators have been shot.

The Washington Times (12/30, Boyer) reports "Trump voiced support...for Iranians protesting in the streets against their government" and AFP (12/30) reports he "condemned the arrest of protesters." The President tweeted, "Many reports of peaceful protests by Iranian citizens fed up with regime's corruption & its squandering of the nation's wealth to fund terrorism abroad. Iranian govt should respect their people's rights, including right to express themselves. The world is watching! #IranProtests." According to the Los Angeles Times (12/30, Mascaro), Trump on Saturday "took a break from playing golf near his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida to tweet clips from his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September when he called for Iranian democratic reforms."

Meanwhile, Politico (12/29, Griffiths) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, in a statement issued Friday night, said, "There are many reports of peaceful protests by Iranian citizens fed up with the regime's corruption and its squandering of the nation's wealth to fund terrorism abroad. The Iranian government should respect their people's rights, including their right

to express themselves.”

Breitbart (12/30, Martel) reports State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert also “condemn[ed] the brutal Iranian regime for impoverishing its people” in a statement. Nauert said, “Iran’s leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos. As President Trump has said, the longest-suffering victims of Iran’s leaders are Iran’s own people.” She added the US “strongly condemns the arrest of peaceful protesters. We urge all nations to publicly support the Iranian people and their demands for basic rights and an end to corruption.” Nauert continued that Secretary of State Tillerson “repeats his deep support for the Iranian people.”

The Hill (12/30, Bowden) reports the Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned Trump’s remarks as “deceitful.” The Hill cites the AP (12/30) in reporting that a ministry spokesman additionally asserted on state television that the “Iranian people give no credit to the deceitful and opportunist remarks of U.S. officials or Mr. Trump.”

Iranian Protests Over Economy, Supreme Leader Continue For Third Consecutive Day. ABC World News Tonight (12/30, story 7, 0:20, Harris) reported that in several Iranian cities on Saturday, “unauthorized protests” over economy and government corruption continued for the third consecutive day, with some demonstrators “even blasting the country’s supreme religious leader.” The New York Times (12/30, Erdbrink) states that “the demonstrators first took to the streets of Mashhad, one of the holiest places in Shiite Islam, on Thursday. By Saturday, dozens of people had been arrested and the police had fired tear gas to disperse crowds.” The Times adds “the protests turned violent” on Saturday night “with at least two demonstrators shot in the western town of Dorud, according to a series of videos posted on social media. At least one of the videos was verified by BBC Persian.”

The Washington Post (12/30, A1, Cunningham) reports on its front page that footage also “emerged late Saturday of demonstrators appearing to attack government buildings and engaging in violent confrontations with police.” The Post calls the demonstrations “a significant challenge” to Rouhani’s government and “an extraordinary display of public dissent.” In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (12/30, lead story, 2:25, Snow), Kate Snow similarly said the anti-government protests “appear to be the most widespread demonstrations since the government crushed a big reform movement in 2009.” Correspondent Kelly O’Donnell explained that the “show of anger and desperation” stems from “a poor economy, with few jobs and rising prices.”

The Wall Street Journal (12/30, Egbali, Fitch) reports the protesters are upset with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s management of the economy as well as the regime’s funding of its ballistic-missile program and Middle Eastern proxies. According to Bloomberg News (12/30, Motevalli), “Rouhani’s government has faced criticism since his re-election in May, both from hardline opponents and disillusioned supporters, who’d been expecting a broader economic recovery following the country’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and easing of international sanctions.”

The AP (12/30, Vahdat, Gambrell) says "the protests appear sparked by social media posts and a surge in prices of basic food supplies, like eggs and poultry." While the AP reports "officials and state media made a point Saturday of saying Iranians have the right to protest and have their voices heard on social issues," the Los Angeles Times (12/30, Mostaghim, Bengali) states that "Iranian police and plainclothes security officers mobilized Saturday to quell a third straight day of nationwide antigovernment demonstrations that for the first time reached the capital, where the chants among protesters included 'Death to the dictator!'" According to the Times, the "bold" denunciation of Khamenei "reflected the depth of frustration driving the biggest show of public discontent that Iran has seen in years."

AFP (12/30, Noorani, Noorani, Randolph) reports the government "appeared to respond by cutting internet access to mobile phones, with the main networks interrupted at least in Tehran shortly before midnight." In addition, AFP says "several Iranian news agencies warned Telegram, the most popular social media service in the country, might soon be shut down after communications minister Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi accused one popular channel, Amadnews, of encouraging an 'armed uprising.'"

Reuters (12/30) reports that the protests on Saturday also "coincided with state-sponsored rallies staged across the Islamic Republic to mark the final suppression of the 2009 unrest by security forces, with mass pro-government events in Tehran and Mashhad, Iran's second city." AFP (12/30, Noorani, Randolph) reports "state television showed huge crowds of black-clad supporters gathering in the capital Tehran, second city Mashhad and elsewhere to mark the anniversary of the end of 'the sedition' – the last major unrest that followed disputed elections in 2009."

Conservative Commentators Praise Trump For Response To Iran Protests, Former US Official Urges Him To Stop Tweeting. Breitbart (12/30, Klein) Mideast bureau chief Aaron Klein says that unlike former President Obama, "Trump did not hesitate to take a leadership position to stand up for Iranian citizens protesting the terror-supporting, extremist regime of Iran." Klein asserts "Trump's quick and forceful reactions contrast with Obama's silence and then soft-pedaling when pro-Democracy protesters were risking their lives and were being violently subdued by regime forces for protesting the Shiite fundamentalist Iranian government."

Daily Caller (12/30, Pickrell) Asia-Pacific reporter Ryan Pickrell similarly says that while Obama "was hesitant and perhaps overly cautious," Trump "was quick to offer his support to Iranian protesters that are critical of the country's leadership." Pickrell adds that unlike the Obama Administration, which "sought to engage Iran," the Trump Administration "has taken a much more antagonistic approach to a country that regularly engages in behavior detrimental to American interests."

However, in a New York Times (12/30, Gordon) op-ed, Philip Gordon, a former Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs and a Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf Region during the Obama

Administration, contends that if Trump really wants to support the Iranian demonstrators, he should "keep quiet and do nothing" because "if Iranians do choose to rise up and push aside their government, it will not be the result of support from Washington."

Scientists, Lawmakers Criticize Trump Over Thursday Tweet On Cold Weather, Climate Change.

Brianna Keilar of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/29, 6:56 p.m. EDT, Keilar) reported President Trump on Thursday took "notice of the frigid weather across the country" in a [tweet](#) that raised "new questions about his views on and understanding of climate change." Government regulation correspondent Rene Marsh said that the President's "political" tweet "plays to his base," but also "highlights how out of step...Trump's policies are with science" by magnifying "his misunderstanding of the science behind climate change." Marsh added scientists have criticized Trump's tweet as irresponsible while in a segment about the "arctic blast" affecting "much of the nation," the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/29, story 2, 2:15, Golodryga) acknowledged that Trump's tweet "definitely garner[ed] a lot of reaction."

[The Hill](#) (12/29, Bowden) reports Rep. Carlos Curbelo, the co-chairman of the House Climate Solutions Caucus, warned the President was being "misleading" by citing "the temperature on any given day to dismiss dangerous risks posed by CO2 emissions."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/29, Carter) reports Rep. Tim Ryan "joined a host of Democratic lawmakers who slammed Trump following the tweet." According to [The Hill](#), Sen. Elizabeth Warren said the US has a "moral obligation" to fight climate change while Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse called the tweet "embarrassing."

[The Hill](#) (12/29, Bowden) in a separate article says the Weather Channel on Friday also criticized the President in a tweet that referenced an "article accusing the Trump administration of ignoring science and [saying] that 2017 was likely to be one of the three warmest years on record."

Meanwhile, [Washington Post](#) (12/29, Rubin) columnist Jennifer Rubin says the tweet shows "Trump either was again playing dumb or evidencing his inability to distinguish between 'weather' and 'climate.'" According to Rubin, "It seems appropriate to end the year's political horror show with confirmation that Trump remains dangerously unfit, something the media is obligated to reveal – each and every day."

Kim Jong-Un Issues New Nuclear Threat To US, Extends Overture To Seoul.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/1, story 6, 2:10, Llamas) reported that as President Trump returns to Washington, he's "facing a fresh threat from Kim Jong-Un," who "now insists that his country's nuclear readiness is a reality." Kim's New Year's message "included a threat. 'The US should know that the nuclear button is on my desk,' he said, 'The entire US mainland is within our nuclear strike range.' That may or may not be true." Regardless, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mike Mullen offered a "grim" assessment on the current

crisis this weekend. Said Mullen, "We're actually closer, in my view, to a nuclear war with North Korea and in that region, than we've ever been, and I just don't see the opportunities to solve this diplomatically at this particular point."

✕ NBC Nightly News (1/1, story 6, 1:30, Alexander) reported that after Kim delivered the "ominous" message to the US, he announced "a new goal today, mass producing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. The country's new year's resolution for 2018." Meanwhile, Kim is "extending a hand to South Korea and offering talks."

Reuters (1/1) reports Kim called for decreased military tensions and improved ties with South Korea, adding that Pyongyang would consider sending athletes to the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang next month. Seoul, for its part, "said it welcomed Kim's offer to send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Games and hold talks with the South to discuss possible participation." When asked by reporters about Kim's speech ahead of his New Year's Eve celebration at Mar-a-Lago, President Trump "simply said, 'we'll see, we'll see.'" Meanwhile, experts and former US diplomats cautioned that Kim's speech constituted "a clear attempt to divide South Korea from its main ally."

In an analysis, the New York Times (1/1, Choe, Sanger) similarly says that embedded in Kim's "canny new strategy to initiate direct talks with South Korea" is "the hope of driving a wedge into its seven-decade alliance with the United States." The Times explains US-South Korea relations have been strained for months, as South Korean President Moon Jae-in has "argued for economic and diplomatic openings with the North" despite Trump's efforts to "squeeze the North with increasingly punishing sanctions." Kim's "dramatic shift in tone and policy," the Times says, "suggests that Mr. Kim sees an opportunity to develop and accentuate the split between Mr. Moon and Mr. Trump, betting that the United States will be unable to mount greater pressure on the North if it does not have South Korean acquiescence." What is unclear, however, "is whether Mr. Kim's gamble will pay off."

Robinson: Administration Must Abandon "Absolutist Rhetoric" About North Korea. Washington Post (1/1) columnist Eugene Robinson expresses fear that the US may "bluster and blunder its way into a tragic, needless war" with North Korea in 2018, not because of "President Trump's juvenile tweets" about Kim Jong-un, but rather the "alarming" and "absolutist rhetoric" from National Security Adviser McMaster. Robinson warns McMaster's statement that there cannot "be negotiations under these current conditions" signals the US "is ruling out the realistic options for peace – and putting us on a path that may lead inexorably to war." Robinson urges the Administration to accept what it "now describes as unacceptable" – the pursuit of "some sort of negotiated deal that freezes the North Korean nuclear and missile programs at certain levels." To do so, Robinson says, "would avoid the unthinkable: a bloodbath that could leave not just Pyongyang but also much of Seoul, and perhaps Tokyo, in smoking ruins."

US Reiterates Need For International Pressure As North Korea Reportedly Prepares Missile Test.

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/29, 5:02 p.m. EDT, Keilar), Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr said "January will be a very interesting time" in regards to the North Korean nuclear threat. US officials believe "North Korea may be preparing for another missile test launch early in the new year," with "the evidence" suggesting it will be a ballistic missile launch, and not a satellite launch. Starr added that "we are weeks away from the Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, and the question is if Kim [Jong-un] were to proceed with the ballistic missile test, what his motivation might be at such a sensitive time for such a provocative act." Starr reported the revelation comes ahead of Secretary of State Tillerson's meeting with allies in Vancouver to discuss the matter, and as Defense Secretary Mattis "met with reporters at the Pentagon today for an end-of-the-year chat." Mattis "said he's not impressed with the North Korean weapons program," and "is really looking for no drama right now in this situation," underscoring how the Administration remains focused on diplomacy and economic sanctions. Starr [said](#) (12/29, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Keilar) that by stressing the economic effort to contain the North Korean threat, Mattis sent "a very clear sign" that he, "very much like the State Department, is looking for the allies to do more in the realm of both economic sanctions and diplomacy."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/29, 6:16 p.m. EDT, Emanuel) broadcast Mattis as saying that after the latest round of United Nations sanctions, "I think you will see increased pressure. What form that pressure takes in terms of physical operations is something that will be determined by the cognizant governments." Meanwhile, "South Korea says it seized a cargo ship last month, claiming it was transferring 600 tons of oil at sea," an action prohibited by the United Nations sanctions. The ship, slated to arrive in Taiwan, allegedly "rendezvoused" with a North Korean vessel. US spy satellites captured the transfer.

Rep. David Cicilline told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/29, 5:22 p.m. EDT, Keilar) he believes "obviously the situation is incredibly serious," as North Korea has made "significant progress" in advancing its nuclear program over the last year. He added that "this is a moment that requires intense, thoughtful diplomacy, really building an international coalition to continue to put pressure on the North Koreans, not only passing sanctions but being certain that they are being properly implemented." Cicilline said pressuring Beijing as much as possible is particularly important, as China has "the ability to stop this program by really cutting off the resources necessary" for North Korea to continue its nuclear program, but some evidence suggests China is not in fact fully complying with the sanctions.

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/29, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Keilar), Rep. Eliot Engel acknowledged North Korea poses a "very serious – probably the most serious – situation we have now," but President Trump's remarks and name-calling about Kim Jong-un "aren't really helpful." He said "it stands to reason" that China and potentially Russia are supplying oil to the North Korean regime, and Russia has accepted guest workers from North Korea, generating "a lot of revenue" for Kim's regime. Still, Engel said, the US must work with both China

and Russia in addressing the North Korean threat. Engel added, "It's been a failure in multiple Administrations that we let it get to this point," and even though there is "no way that North Korea can beat the United States in any kind of a war," the fact remains that "a million people or more could die" if a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula manifested.

Mattis: Joint US-South Korea Military Exercises Will Proceed Despite Safety Concerns Over Winter Olympics. Politico (12/29, Klimas) reports Defense Secretary Mattis said Friday that US military exercises scheduled to take place near the Korean Peninsula will not be canceled to lessen the likelihood of a conflict erupting during the Winter Olympic Games in South Korea. Mattis said he does not anticipate pausing the exercises "for a period of time because of a diplomatic issue or something," although Politico says Mattis left open the possibility that they may be rescheduled over other concerns, like local holidays or ship availability. When asked about the advancements by North Korea, Mattis, speaking at a year-end address to reporters at the Pentagon, responded, "Nothing impresses me."

South Korea Seizes Hong Kong-Flagged Vessel Over Alleged North Korean Fuel Transfer. The New York Times (12/29, Sang-Hun) reports South Korean officials said Friday that they have seized the Lighthouse Winmore, a Hong Kong-flagged oil tanker, and questioned its crew for allegedly "transferring 600 tons of refined oil to a North Korean ship in October in violation of United Nations sanctions." The Treasury Department released satellite photographs late last month depicting the transfer between the Lighthouse Winmore and a North Korean vessel, prompting South Korean authorities to seize the vessel when it revisited the Yeosu port. Reports of the seizure surfaced after President Trump accused China in a Thursday tweet, "Caught RED HANDED – very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea."

The Wall Street Journal (12/29, Jeong) reports that on Thursday, President Trump accused China of violating United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang, tweeting that he is "very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea." On Friday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry challenged the veracity of the claims and denied any knowledge of alleged fuel transfers between North Korean and Chinese vessels.

WSJournal A1: China Pushes Back On UN Blacklist Of Ships Violating North Korean Sanctions. The Wall Street Journal (12/29, A1, Gordon, Jeong) reports on its front page that the United Nations Security Council blacklisted 10 vessels for violating sanctions on North Korea, but Beijing on Thursday said it would only agree to blacklist four of the vessels, according to diplomats with knowledge of the Chinese notification. The Journal says China's pushback against the US proposal to sanction the vessels comes amid escalating concerns about maritime violations of the UN sanctions against North Korea, and amid heightened tensions between President Trump and Chinese officials over Beijing's willingness to strictly enforce the sanctions.

North Korean Defector Details Pyongyang's Smuggling Ring. A North Korean defector, Ri Jong Ho, told correspondent Brian Todd of CNN's Situation Room (12/29, 5:51 p.m. EDT, Keilar) that a freighter intercepted in August 2016 en

route to the Suez Canal contained North Korean-made rocket grenades buried beneath 2,000 pounds of iron ore – just part of what Ro described as a smuggling spider web. He said hundreds of Chinese and North Korean fishing boats in the Yellow Sea and elsewhere are actually engaged in smuggling, and the profits from the black market sales of weapons, illegal drugs, endangered species, and other contraband has helped Kim not only finance his regime and weapons program, but also buy the loyalty of North Korean generals and officials.

European Security Sources: Russian Vessels Transferring Fuel To North Korea.

In an exclusive, Reuters (12/29, Faulconbridge, Saul, Nikolskaya) reports Russian tankers conducted ship-to-ship fuel transfers to North Korean vessels on at least three separate occasions in October and November, “according to two senior Western European security sources, providing an economic lifeline to the secretive Communist state.” Reuters notes that it “was unable to independently verify that the vessels had transferred fuel to North Korean vessels, whether the Russian state knew about the sales or how many Russian vessels were involved in the transfers.” Still, Reuters stresses, “North Korea relies on imported fuel to keep its struggling economy functioning” and “requires oil for its intercontinental ballistic missile and nuclear program that the United States says threatens the peace in Asia.”

Russia Offers To Host US-North Korea Talks. Reuters (12/29) reports in brief that the RIA news agency quoted Russian ambassador-at-large Oleg Burmistrov as stating that Moscow is “open to contacts and ready to provide a venue” for talks between the US and North Korea, if invited to do so.

Amid “Wave Of Optimism,” Economy Gathering Steam.

The New York Times (1/1, Appelbaum, Tankersley) reports on a “wave of optimism” among US business leaders that is “beginning to translate into the sort of investment in new plants, equipment and factory upgrades that bolsters economic growth, spurs job creation – and may finally raise wages significantly.” Business leaders “are eager for the tax cuts that take effect this year,” but the “newfound confidence was initially inspired by the Trump administration’s regulatory pullback,” which has “instilled a faith in business executives that new regulations are not coming.” The Times adds that “in the administration and across the business community, there is a perception” that the Obama Administration’s “years of increased environmental, financial and other regulatory oversight...dampened investment and job creation – and that Mr. Trump’s more hands-off approach has unleashed the ‘animal spirits’ of companies that had hoarded cash after the recession of 2008.”

USA Today (1/1, Davidson) reports that economists say the recovery “is beginning to expand to more industries and sweep up more of the Americans left on the sidelines over the past 8 ½ years.” According to analysts, the “trends will likely gather force this year...while tepid wage gains accelerate.” Moreover, economists say the recently signed tax cut plan “could provide a further modest boost, economists say.” While the economy “isn’t expected to register the breakout 3% growth Trump has promised, at least in the near term,” it is

"forecast to grow 2.6% in 2018 as consumer spending keeps chugging and business investment ratchets higher, according to the average estimate of 52 economists surveyed by Wolters Kluwer Blue Chip Economic Indicators in early December."

Cities With Low Unemployment Seeing Strong Wage Growth. The Wall Street Journal (1/1, Raice, Morath) reports that US cities with the lowest unemployment rates are experiencing strong wage growth which had been largely unseen even as the unemployment rate has fallen. The Journal says the wage growth could signal income increases nationally in 2018.

Krugman: Current "Economic Calm" Can't Last. Paul Krugman writes in the New York Times (1/1) that we are "living in an era of political turmoil and economic calm," but it "probably can't" last because "sooner or later, something will go wrong, and we're very poorly placed to respond when it does." Krugman argues that "given that rates are already so low when things are pretty good, it will be hard for central bankers to mount an effective response if and when something not so good happens." When that something "does come, we'll need an effective, coherent response from officials beyond the world of central banking. ... How confident would you feel in the team of Donald Trump and Steve Mnuchin?" Krugman expresses hope "that by the time stuff happens, we'll actually have non-delusional people in charge."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A New Progressive Era' In New York City." The New York Times (1/1) says in an editorial that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio "had reason to feel proud. The old year ended with a murder total under 300, the lowest in many decades. Job totals in the city are at record highs. Construction continues to boom." It was also the first time since 1986 that a re-elected Democrat was sworn in "in one of the bluest cities in the land."

Washington Post.

"The West Should Support The Protesters In Iran." A Washington Post (1/1) editorial says President Trump "has been right to tweet his backing for the [Iranian] demonstrators; European leaders, who have been far more cautious, should speak up." At the same time, the Post says Trump "should avoid acts that would undercut the protests and empower the regime's hard-liners. Foremost among these would be a renunciation of the 2015 nuclear accord," which it says would "divide the United States from European governments when they should be coordinating their response to the uprising, and it would give the regime an external threat against which to rally. Reform of the nuclear accord can wait. Now is the time for Mr. Trump to focus on supporting the people of Iran."

"How Trump And Congress Could Chart A Constructive Course In 2018." A Washington Post (1/1) editorial says Republicans "ended the year in a mood of undeserved triumph," after passing the Republican tax bill, and they "began teeing up an agenda for 2018." Questioning whether Republicans will "continue trying to govern on behalf of the third of the country furthest to the right, or will

leaders chart a better direction,” the Post argues their top priority “should be providing protections for ‘dreamers.’” They “must also prevent mandatory budget caps from harming military readiness and domestic programs even more than they already have, and they should seek to invest more money in the nation’s roads and rails.”

“States Can Fix Republicans’ Obamacare Mess.” In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/1) argues that though “Republicans have ripped a big hole” in the Affordable Care Act by killing the individual mandate, “there is a way to avoid chaos in the health-insurance markets on which millions of Americans depend, if states act quickly to undo the damage.” The Post writes that states can pass “their own individual mandates that apply within their borders, keeping the essential elements of the Obamacare system intact as far as their jurisdiction extends.”

Wall Street Journal.

“About That Trump ‘Autocracy.’” In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/1) says that despite the predictions of progressives who cast the President as a threat to democracy and warned that he would impose authoritarian rule, as he finishes his first year in office, Trump appears to have been as constrained by the limits of his power as his predecessors.

“Tales From The Public School Crypt.” In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (1/1) criticizes the Detroit school district’s apparent efforts to prevent a charter school from purchasing and expanding into a currently-abandoned building that once house an elementary school. The Journal asserts that Superintendent Nikolai Vitti’s refusal to waive use of the non-residential property is illegal; the charter school, Detroit Prep, is suing the district in Wayne County Circuit Court. The Journal labels as farcical the district’s efforts to spend money defending the lawsuit, when it alleges that it lacks resources to provide basic education.

“Trump Gets The UN To Cut Spending.” The Wall Street Journal (1/1) editorializes that pressure from the United States was a necessary factor in the United Nations’ decision to reduce spending in the new biennial budget by 5%. The Journal credits the US for using the leverage that it holds by providing the UN with 22% of its budget. The publication specifically praises President Trump and Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley for criticizing the mismanagement and bureaucracy at the UN.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

Trump Backs Protesters In Iran

In Cities With Low Unemployment, Wages Finally Start To Get Bigger

What New Tax Law? Caterpillar Fights To Protect Its Swiss-Made Profits

Pension Funds Ask: What To Buy When Nothing Is Cheap?

New York Times:

Kim Jong-Un’s Overture Could Drive A Wedge Between South Korea And The US

[The Trump Effect: Business, Anticipating Less Regulation, Loosens Purse Strings](#)
[As Iranian Protesters Dig In, Officials Warn Of Harsher Response](#)
[Emboldened Israeli Right Presses Moves To Doom 2-State Solution](#)
[Peter Martins Retires From New York City Ballet After Misconduct Allegations](#)
[With Disney Deal Looming, Murdoch's Empire Is Fractured](#)
[In Chilly Start To 2nd Term, Mayor Looks Beyond New York](#)

Washington Post:

[Packed Agenda Awaits On Hill](#)
[Death Toll Rises In Iranian Protests](#)
[A Long Way From Puerto Rico](#)
[Reexamining The Chaos Of 1968 Without Nostalgia](#)
[Female Candidates Race Toward Governor's Offices](#)

Washington Times:

[China Covertly Offering North Korea Missiles, Aid To Halt Nuclear Program](#)
[House Expands Russia Probe To FBI, Justice Use Of Unconfirmed Dossier To Snare Trump](#)
[Legal Quirk Often Shortens Prison Time For Criminal Immigrants](#)
[Just Hold On – Do People Postpone Death For The Holidays?](#)
[Controversial Former Coal Titan In Bid To Clear Name, Win Senate Seat In West Virginia](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Costa Rica-Small Plane Crash; Colorado-Deputy Shooting Investigation; Iran Anti-Government Protest; North Korea Threats; Miss America New Chair; California Cannabis Legalization; Air Booking Tips; New Years Shooting; Amber Alert; Diving Car Rescue; Car Fire; Houston Pianist.

CBS: Judicial Branch-Harassment Policy; Hollywood-Sexual Harassment Fight; Weather Forecast; Trump-2018 Policy Agenda; Iran Anti-Government Protest; Berlin Wall; Colorado-Deputy Shooting; Costa Rica-Small Plane Crash; International Date Line Crossing; New State Laws; Iceland-Salary Gender Equality; New Years Celebrations; Adopted Child-Parents Search.

NBC: Winter Weather; Costa Rica-Small Plane Crash; Colorado-Deputy Shooting Investigation; Judicial Branch-Harassment Policy; Iran Anti-Government Protest; North Korea Threats; Christmas Tree On Fire; Vehicle Fire; Florida-Hurricane Recovery; New State Laws; NFL News; Professional Taylor; Rose Parade.

Network TV At A Glance:

Winter Weather – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
Iran Anti-Government Protest – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Colorado-Deputy Shooting Investigation – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Costa Rica-Small Plane Crash – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Immigration Computer Outages; Colorado-Deputy Shooting; Winter Weather; North Korea Threats.

CBS: Immigration Computer Outages; Winter Weather; California Cannabis Legalization; North Korea Threats; Pakistan-US Aid Withholding.

FOX: Pakistan-US Aid Withholding; Iran Anti-Government Protest; Trump-Policy Agenda.

NPR: California Cannabis Legalization; California-Affordable Housing Law; Jerusalem-Palestinian Protest.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for lunch with Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate convenes in a pro forma session Location: TBD
<http://www.senate.gov/>

On recess until 3 January.

US House: 12:00 PM House of Representatives meets in a pro forma session
Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/>

On recess until 3 January.

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were re-runs.

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From: Travnicek, Andrea
Sent: 2018-01-02T11:49:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: For your awareness -- Notification of Planned Sage-grouse /Sagebrush Ecosystem Publication Early-Alert Notification
Received: 2018-01-02T11:50:13-05:00
[Johnston ECOIND8937 final.pdf](#)

In case you didn't get a copy. Looks like BLM and FWS have been notified.

Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
work: 202-208-0969
cell: 202-897-7220

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kinsinger, Anne <akinsinger@usgs.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 1:28 PM
Subject: Re: For your awareness -- Notification of Planned Sage-grouse /Sagebrush Ecosystem Publication Early-Alert Notification
To: "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Taylor, Joanne" <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Colette Charbonneau <ccharbonneau@usgs.gov>, Steve Hanser <shanser@usgs.gov>, William Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>, "Schuler, Carol" <cschuler@usgs.gov>

Andrea, the attached manuscript has been through our Bureau Approval process. Happy Holidays Anne

Anne E. Kinsinger
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Cell: 571-212-6898

On Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 2:34 PM, Travnicek, Andrea <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Do I have a copy of what is being released?

Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
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Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
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On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 6:54 PM, Taylor, Joanne <jtaylor@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hi Andrea -- Following up on your request to receive a heads up on our notifications to partners re sage-grouse or sagebrush publications, we provide the following:

Notification to W&S

The USGS plans to send an early alert message tomorrow morning (December 21, 2017) regarding the pending release of a sage grouse or sagebrush ecosystem related journal publication titled "Vegetation Responses to Sagebrush Reduction Treatments Measured by Satellites." This publication is expected to be released in the next 2 weeks. This notification is part of the ongoing USGS commitment to alert DOI Bureaus and the Sage grouse Task Force members on all publications on these topics prior to release. Notification to DOI Bureaus will be distributed to the list below. The Sage grouse Task Force* notification will be sent via Zach Bodhane, Policy Adviser, Western Governors Association.

DOI Bureau Notification Recipient List:

Mike Nedd, Bureau of Land Management, Acting Deputy Director of Operations, mnedd@blm.gov
Kristin Bail, Bureau of Land Management, Assistant Director Renewable Resources and Planning, kbail@blm.gov
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***Sage-grouse Task Force Members:**

Co chair, Governor of Colorado, John Hickenlopper

Co chair, Governor of Wyoming, Matt Mead

The following Federal agencies have members: BLM, USFWS, USGS, Forest Service.

The following 11 states have members: CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY.

(The Western Governors Association assists in coordinating the efforts of the Task Force)

-- Thanks, Joanne

Joanne C. Taylor, USGS
Deputy Chief of Staff, Reston, VA
703-648-6837; jctaylor@usgs.gov

1 11 December 2017
2 Aaron Johnston
3 U. S. Geological Survey
4 Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center
5 2327 University Way, Suite 2
6 Bozeman, MT 59715
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8

9 **Vegetation Responses to Sagebrush-Reduction Treatments Measured by Satellites**

10
11 Aaron N. Johnston^{a,b,*}, Erik A. Beever^{a,c}, Jerod A. Merkle^d, Geneva Chong^a
12

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14 Suite 2, Bozeman, MT 59715, USA

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20 Physiology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071, USA
21
22

23 **ABSTRACT:** Time series of vegetative indices derived from satellite imagery constitute tools to
24 measure ecological effects of natural and management-induced disturbances to ecosystems. Over
25 the past century, sagebrush-reduction treatments have been applied widely throughout western
26 North America to increase herbaceous vegetation for livestock and wildlife. We used indices
27 from satellite imagery to 1) quantify effects of prescribed-fire, herbicide, and mechanical
28 treatments on vegetative cover, productivity, and phenology, and 2) describe how vegetation
29 changed over time following these treatments. We hypothesized that treatments would increase
30 herbaceous cover and accordingly shift phenologies towards those typical of grass-dominated
31 systems. We expected prescribed burns would lead to the greatest and most-prolonged effects on
32 vegetative cover and phenology, followed by herbicide and mechanical treatments. Treatments
33 appeared to increase herbaceous cover and productivity, which coincided with signs of earlier

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senescence signals expected of grass-dominated systems, relative to sagebrush-dominated systems. Spatial heterogeneity for most phenometrics was lower in treated areas relative to controls, which suggested treatment-induced homogenization of vegetative communities. Phenometrics that explain spring migrations of ungulates mostly were unaffected by sagebrush treatments. Fire had the strongest effect on vegetative cover, and yielded the least evidence for sagebrush recovery. Overall, treatment effects were small relative to those reported from field-based studies for reasons most likely related to sagebrush recovery, treatment specification, and untreated patches within mosaicked treatment applications. Treatment effects were also small relative to inter-annual variation that was explained by temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation. Our results indicated that cumulative NDVI, late-season phenometrics, and spatial heterogeneity of several phenometrics may serve as useful indicators of vegetative change in sagebrush ecosystems.

KEYWORDS: *Artemisia* spp., MODIS, NDVI, phenology, prescribed fire, sagebrush

1. Introduction

Characterization of ecosystem responses to natural disturbances and management actions from local to landscape scales is fundamental to advancing strategies for ecosystem restoration and maintaining biological diversity (Folke et al. 2004). The evolution of theory on community development that provides guidance on ecological responses to management and natural disturbances has relied on field observations that have a limited spatio-temporal scope (Pickett et al. 1987, Walker et al. 2007, Vellend 2016). This limits discrimination of broad pattern from local anomaly and inhibits ability to obtain comprehensive, synthetic understanding of ecological phenomena. Spatio-temporally extensive assessment of ecological disturbance, now afforded by

archives of satellite imagery with high spatial and temporal resolutions, can not only help assess efficacy of alternative management strategies, but also can aid understanding the organization and function of ecosystems (Kennedy et al. 2009, Wang 2012, Nauman et al. 2017). Measures of ecosystem components and change derived from satellite imagery can yield ecological indicators with desirable qualities (Noss 1990) because of their objectivity, repeatability, wide availability, and extensive spatio-temporal coverage at high resolutions (Klein et al. 2017).

The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is derived from red and near-infrared bands of spectral reflectance in satellite imagery. The index measures vegetation greenness as an indicator of primary productivity (Tucker 1979). Time series of NDVI values provide a useful tool to measure spatially explicit changes in vegetation (Pettorelli et al. 2005). Such changes have been linked to other dynamics such as herbivore foraging behavior, movement, and fitness (Pettorelli et al. 2007, 2011, Merkle et al. 2014, Stoner et al. 2016). As such, NDVI has a long history of applications in studies of vegetation and as an indicator of ecosystem change (Yengoh et al. 2014). Despite the extensive use of NDVI for measuring ecosystem dynamics, novel indicators and applications in many ecosystems remain unexplored. No study has evaluated NDVI time series from satellite imagery to measure changes in vegetation resulting from management actions in sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) ecosystems. Biodiversity in this ecosystem is at risk from climate change and a history of management that has ultimately altered ecosystem function and composition (Noss and Cooperrider 1994, Chambers et al. 2017), e.g., via invasive grasses and consequently altered fire cycles.

The sagebrush ecosystem covers much of western North America and supports unique biota, but it has been diminished or altered through development, agriculture, livestock, invasive species, fire suppression, and management actions designed to reduce sagebrush cover (Davies et

al. 2011, Miller et al. 2011, Beck et al. 2012). In the mid-20th century, most prescribed treatments sought to reduce sagebrush cover to stimulate production of grasses and forbs for livestock (Vale 1974, Beck and Mitchell 2000). More recently, sagebrush management has aimed to improve wildlife habitat and restore native ecosystems (Norvell et al. 2014, Dahlgren et al. 2015, Smith and Beck 2017). Management of sagebrush has come under increased scrutiny as recovery of imperiled species dependent upon these systems has become a priority for conservation groups and land management agencies (Knick and Connelly 2011, Chambers et al. 2017). Wildlife responses to sagebrush reduction have varied by species, sagebrush subspecies, and treatment application. Most studies have examined responses of sage-grouse (*Centrocercus* spp.; Dahlgren et al. 2006, Hess and Beck 2012, Dahlgren et al. 2015, Smith and Beck 2017), whereas few have examined other birds (Norvell et al. 2014, Lukacs et al. 2015), pygmy rabbits (*Brachylagus idahoensis*; Wilson et al. 2011), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*; Bergman et al. 2014, 2015), and butterflies (McIver and Macke 2014). Still, the ecological effects of sagebrush treatments and whether they improve wildlife habitat or meet goals of ecosystem restoration remain poorly understood (Beck et al. 2012).

Remarkably little is known about alternative treatment effects on plant phenology, an important factor for wildlife within sagebrush ecosystems (Merkle et al. 2016). Birds and ungulates are known to time their migrations with the annual green-up period (van der Graaf et al. 2006, Merkle et al. 2016). Deer, for example, maximize foraging efficiency by following the green-up of vegetation as they migrate from winter to summer ranges (Aikens et al. 2017). This relationship has been effectively modeled with the date of maximum instantaneous rate of green-up (IRG) for vegetation based on time series of NDVI values (Bischof et al. 2012) from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS) aboard the Terra satellite (Gao et al.

2006). Measures of phenology (phenometrics) derived from satellite imagery reflect the collective phenologies of vegetative communities, known as land-surface phenology, because multiple plant species occur within individual image pixels (Henebry and de Beurs 2013). Although some differences between ground and satellite measures of phenology have been detected, overall correlation has been sufficient to identify phenometric patterns that influence resource use by animals (Coops et al. 2012, Merkle et al. 2014, Garrouette et al. 2016). Phenometrics may serve as relevant indicators of ecosystem change, but their application to date in assessments of natural disturbances or management activities has been limited. Sagebrush treatments are known to change composition and biomass of vegetation (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Pyke et al. 2014, Swanson et al. 2016), which in turn can change land-surface phenology (Kremer and Running 1993, Bradley and Mustard 2008). Furthermore, changes in soil chemistry and microclimate associated with sagebrush removal can alter phenology of some plants (Old 1969, Kauffman et al. 1997, Wroblewski and Kauffman 2003).

We evaluated effects of three sagebrush treatments on metrics of vegetative cover, phenology, and productivity in southwest Wyoming, where treatments date back to the 1960s and cover about 5% of the landscape. Declining populations of ungulates in this region track phenology for their migrations, which has raised concern over habitat management and integrity of migration routes (Sawyer et al. 2009, Edmunds et al. 2016). Mismatches in plant phenology between treated and untreated areas could result in disrupted migration routes or suboptimal foraging for ungulates. We compared vegetative characteristics of treated sites to nearby untreated sites after accounting for the time since treatment and local environmental factors. Our objectives included: 1) quantifying effects of prescribed-fire, herbicide, and mechanical treatments on vegetative cover, productivity, and phenology, and 2) describing how vegetation

changes with time following these treatments. We hypothesized that treatments would increase the ratio of herbaceous to sagebrush cover and accordingly shift phenologies towards those typical of grass-dominated systems. We expected prescribed burns would lead to the greatest and most-prolonged effects on vegetative cover and phenology, followed by herbicide and mechanical removal treatments (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Lesica et al. 2007).

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Study Site

Our study domain was in the Upper Green River watershed in Sublette County, Wyoming, USA, where treatments to reduce sagebrush have been applied since the 1960s and were distributed across approximately 8,000 km² (Figure 1). Summers were dry with mean high temperatures of 22 to 28 °C in July based on 30-year normal temperatures (PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, <http://prism.oregonstate.edu>, created 21 April 2017). Annual precipitation ranged from 20 to 80 cm. Winters were cold with mean daily low temperatures of -13 to -22 °C in January. Elevations of our study sites ranged from 2,094 to 2,565 m. Lower elevations were dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), and higher sites were dominated by mountain big sagebrush (*A. t. vaseyana*) (Knight 1994). Other common sagebrush species in this area included black sagebrush (*A. nova*), silver sagebrush (*A. cana*), and low sagebrush (*A. arbuscula*). Rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), Gardner's saltbush (*Atriplex gardneri*), and winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*) were interspersed with sagebrush at relatively low densities. Common native grasses included Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), thickspike

wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), Letterman's needlegrass (*Stipa lettermani*), bluebunch
wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*). Invasive
cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) was a common annual grass. The forbs included aster
(Asteraceae), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), clover (Fabaceae), fleabane (*Erigeron* spp.), and
phlox (*Phlox diffusa*). Most lands were public and managed by the Bureau of Land Management
for multiple use including energy development, livestock grazing, and recreation.

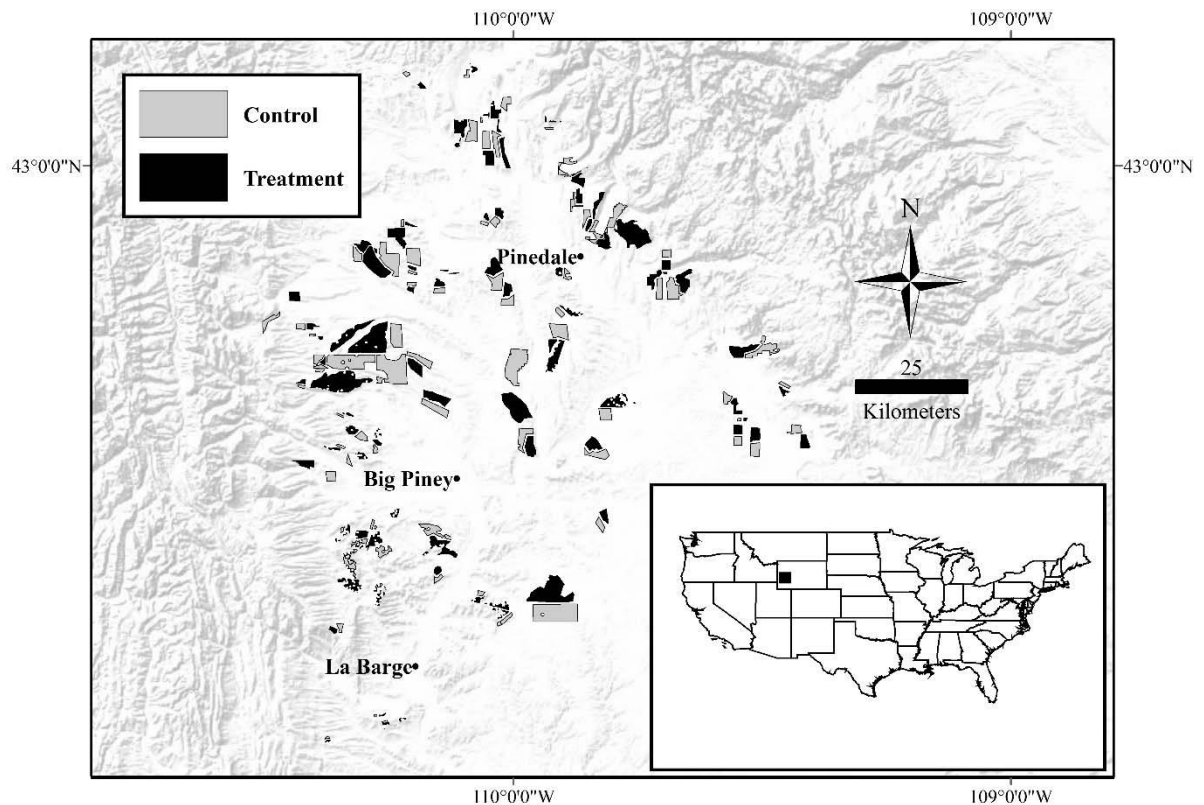


Figure 1. Study area and sagebrush-reduction treatments within the Upper Green River Valley in southwest Wyoming, USA, 1960-2015. Control sites were untreated areas paired with adjacent or nearby prescribed-fire, herbicide, or mechanical treatments for analyses of vegetative characteristics. (black and white; two columns)

2.2 Treatments

Locations of 545 vegetation treatments covering 587 km² in the Upper Green River Valley from 1955 to 2015 were documented by BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and the University of Wyoming. Each record describes the treatment type, location, dominant vegetation, and year of treatment. Of these records, 175 treatments were applied exclusively to Wyoming big sagebrush, and 122 treatments were applied only to mountain big sagebrush. Sagebrush treatment areas covered 395 km² and ranged from <1 ha to 2,355 ha with a median of 13 ha. The remaining treatments were applied to aspen-dominated stands, crops, or other vegetation. Many historic treatment areas were mapped based on treatment records of general locations (e.g., Township, Range, Section, and Quarter), aerial photos, and consultation with range managers with first-hand knowledge of treatment areas dating back to the 1950's. Most treatments were visible within aerial photos taken near the time of the treatment, which provided a means to delineate the spatial extent of the treatment with high confidence. Records of treatments not visible in historic photos or discernible with ancillary data were discarded.

We screened the treatments to ensure that selected sites met our analysis criteria for consistency across treated areas and representation of prescribed-fire, herbicide, and mechanical treatments. Specifically, we analyzed treatments that covered >45 ha and ≥ 9 MODIS cells (250-m resolution), to ensure that measures of phenology and productivity were derived from several pixels within each site. All treated areas met this area requirement after omission of 1) the outer 125 m of the treatment area, to ensure that associated MODIS cells (250 m) did not cover areas outside the treatment; and 2) any areas disturbed by energy developments. This resulted in 58 total sites that included 11 fire-treated sites (3 Wyoming big sagebrush, 8 mountain big sagebrush), 38 herbicide-treated sites (29 Wyoming big sagebrush, 9 mountain big sagebrush),

and 9 mechanically treated sites (7 Wyoming big sagebrush and 2 mountain big sagebrush).

Across the 58 sites, treatments were applied between 1960 and 2008 (Table 1).

Table 1. Treatment sample sizes by sagebrush subspecies (WBS = Wyoming big sagebrush, MBS = mountain big sagebrush) and ranges of elevation, treatment areas, and application years.

Treatment	WBS	MBS	Total <i>n</i>	Elevation (m)	Year	Area (ha)
Herbicide	29	9	38	2103-2565	1960-2007	49-1906
Mechanical	7	2	9	2094-2357	1960-2008	47-1826
Fire	3	8	11	2263-2554	1989-2001	61-1550

Treatment records varied in the amount of information to describe applications. Some records specified the type of herbicide (e.g., Spike 20P) or mechanical (e.g., mowing or chaining) treatment, whereas many did not. Photos and treatment notes from a visit to several treated areas in 2006 indicated that 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) was commonly applied in the 1960's, resulting in high sagebrush kill-rates (80-90%). Sagebrush at these sites had recovered to levels similar to untreated areas by 2006 but lacked sagebrush in older age classes based on visual inspection. Tebuthiuron (e.g., Spike 20P or Graslan Brush Bullets 250) was used in more recent treatments (>1980), where applications of <1.1 kg active ingredient/ha were administered from aircraft to thin sagebrush (e.g., 50-70% removal). Leave-strips or partial treatments were applied to create mosaics of variable sagebrush densities. Mechanical treatments of mowing, chaining, or aerating were applied in similar patterns that left old sagebrush in untreated strips (e.g., 30-m wide) within project areas. Prescribed-fire treatments were applied in the spring or fall and targeted 40-60% removal of sagebrush. Fire efficacy for sagebrush removal likely varied with fuels, weather, and local factors that contributed to a mosaic of varying sagebrush removal. Post-treatment monitoring at a subset of these sites indicated that all treatments increased herbaceous cover (WGFD 2011). Sites treated with Lawson aerators recovered canopy cover of sagebrush in <7 years, whereas recovery was much slower in

prescribed burns (WGFD 2015). The lack of outliers in our analysis suggests that any widely varying treatment effects from differences in application or sub-treatment (e.g., mow versus aerator) were not apparent in our measures of vegetation characteristics. We obtained original documentation with details of treatment applications for several sites from the Land Treatment Digital Library (Pilliod and Welty 2013).

For each treated area, we selected an untreated area nearby to serve as a paired control (Figure 1), for which similarity to treated sites was maximized based on area, sagebrush subspecies, elevation, and soil type. In most cases, controls were immediately adjacent to their paired, treated sites except for a 125-m buffer between treated and control areas that ensured MODIS pixels in control sites did not overlap any treated areas. In addition, controls were not placed near major roads, cities, other vegetation treatments, or private lands, because of uncertainty in their management. Sagebrush distribution by dominant subspecies was available from a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) GAP land cover map with classifications of dominant sagebrush subspecies. These classifications matched *in-situ* field data at all $n = 58$ treated sites. Elevation was acquired from the USGS National Elevation Dataset (10-m resolution). We used the State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) data set (Soil Survey Staff) to guide selection of control sites, and we were able to place nearly all controls within the same soil map unit as their paired treated site. We masked 150-m buffers around pad scars from energy development and 250-m buffers around oil wells from treatment and control polygons to omit these areas from data extraction and analysis. Finally, we visually inspected all treated and control sites in high-resolution satellite imagery (≤ 0.5 m resolution, DigitalGlobe, caltopo.com) to ensure sites represented sagebrush ecosystems. We omitted one forested and one developed site from the

analysis that were not screened with our GIS layers. All data extraction and data analyses were performed in ArcMap 10.1 (Environmental Systems Resource Institute, Redlands, CA, USA).

We created indices of temperature, growing-season precipitation, and snowpack from weather station data (SNOTEL, ACIS) to serve as model covariates that might explain inter-annual variation in phenometrics and productivity. We averaged daily mean temperatures between February 5 to April 5 across 12 SNOTEL stations in the vicinity of our study area for each year from 2001-2016. This period represents the 60 days prior to the average Julian date (95) for the start of spring at our sites and is known to influence phenology (Cong et al. 2013). Growing-season precipitation was represented as the amount of precipitation from March through August, averaged over 12 SNOTEL stations and 3 ACIS stations, for each year. We averaged estimates of snow water equivalency (SWE) for April 1 across 12 SNOTEL stations to represent snowpack for each year.

2.3 Vegetative cover, phenology, and productivity

Within each treatment and control polygon, we extracted the mean and standard deviation of pixel values from rasters that represented vegetative cover, phenology, and productivity. We obtained cover percentages by sagebrush (all species), herbaceous vegetation, and bare ground from 30-m-resolution maps derived from LandSat and 2.4-m resolution QuickBird imagery acquired in 2006 and 2007 (Homer et al. 2012). These map products, developed by USGS, are publicly available on ScienceBase.gov. Mapped estimates of percent cover by sagebrush, herbaceous vegetation, and bare ground used in our analyses were rigorously validated with field measures by Homer et al. (2012). Root mean square errors for percent cover of each type based on an independent accuracy assessment were: sagebrush 5.47, herbaceous 12.9, and bare

ground 15.9. Phenology and productivity for years 2001-2016 inclusive were estimated from NDVI time series obtained from bands 1 and 2 (250-m spatial and 8-day temporal resolutions) of the MOD09Q1 data product from the MODIS Terra satellite. For each year and pixel, we fit a double logistic curve to smooth the NDVI time series following methods of Bischof et al. (2012) and Merkle et al. (2016). Prior to fitting curves, 1) NDVI values <0 and pixels obscured by clouds were omitted; 2) values for November-February were defined as the 0.025 quantile of each pixel's time series; 3) a 3-window median filter was applied; and 4) the time series was scaled between 0 and 1 based on the upper 0.975 quantile of each pixel's time series. For sites with snow cover that persisted beyond February, winter values were assigned until snow cover was absent in 2 consecutive 8-day periods based on the snow cover band in the MOD09A1 data product (500-m spatial and 8-day temporal resolution). From the fitted NDVI curves, we extracted Julian dates for the start of spring as the highest values for the 2nd derivative of the spring side of the NDVI curve and the end of spring as the lowest value (Figure 2). All derivatives were scaled from 0 to 1. We used the highest value of the 1st derivative on the spring side of the NDVI curve as the date of maximum instantaneous rate of green-up, and that of the fall side of the curve as the date of the maximum rate of senescence. We also extracted the dates of peak NDVI and calculated the length of spring as the number of days between spring start and end. For a measure of productivity, we calculated cumulative or integrated NDVI as the sum of the unscaled NDVI values for each year subtracted by the minimum value (Pettorelli et al. 2005).

2.4 Data analysis

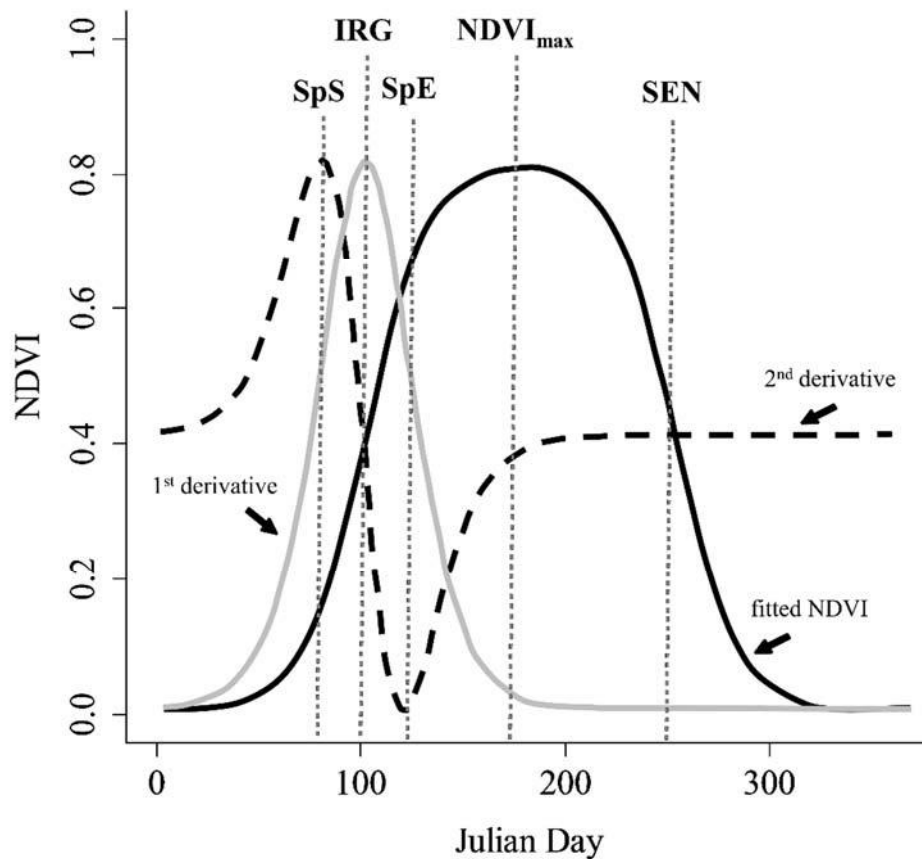


Figure 2. Phenometrics derived from time series of NDVI values included the dates for spring start (SpS), spring end (SpE), maximum instantaneous rate of green-up (IRG), maximum NDVI ($NDVI_{max}$), and maximum rate of senescence (SEN). (black and white; one column)

We used linear models with mixed effects in R package LME4 (Version 1.1-12, <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/lme4/index.html>, accessed 7 Apr 2017) to test effects of each treatment on vegetative cover, phenology, productivity and the spatial heterogeneity of these metrics after accounting for the time since treatment and relevant environmental factors ($\alpha = 0.05$). Spatial heterogeneity was represented by the coefficient of variation (CV) calculated as the ratio of the standard deviation of pixel values within each site to the site mean (van Leeuwen et al. 2010). All models included a random factor that linked treated sites with their paired controls and, for the analyses of phenology and productivity, provided necessary structure for

analysis of repeated measures from 2001-2016. There were 1,796 observations among the 58 treated sites and their paired controls for analyses of phenology and productivity. Models also included the treatment as a fixed-effect with categories of control, prescribed fire, herbicide, and mechanical. We accounted for time since treatment as a fixed effect with a linear or nonlinear function depending on model fit. For each response, we fit models with and without log transformation of the time since treatment, and then analysis proceeded with the form that resulted in the lowest Akaike information criterion with correction for small sample sizes (AIC_c; Burnham and Anderson 2002). All models included fixed-effect covariates for the mean elevation, dominant sagebrush subspecies (Wyoming or mountain big sagebrush), and area-to-edge ratio of each site. The area-to-edge ratio provided a means to account for differences in recovery associated with the size of treatment area and edge effects. We expected sites with high ratios to recover sagebrush more slowly because of lower likelihood of seed dispersal away from treatment edges. For analyses of phenology and productivity, fixed-effect covariates for temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation were included as repeated measures from 2001-2016. For analyses of vegetative cover, we excluded treatments after 2005 because the cover maps were generated with Quickbird imagery acquired in 2006. We also excluded some sites where cover estimates were not available, which resulted in 50 treated areas and their paired controls that were suitable for analysis.

We tested interactions between treatments and time since treatment to determine whether treatment effects changed over time as vegetation recovered from the treatment. Although some interactions were statistically significant, most did not explain enough variation to warrant their inclusion in the models because AIC_c values for models with interaction were within 2 units of models with only main effects. We report significant interactions, but also present treatment effects from models without interactions because most were inconsequential. Treatment effects

based only on analyses of main effects represent the difference between controls and treatments averaged over all years in the data. Coefficients for main effects in the presence of interactions represent the difference between treated and control sites one year after treatment, and interaction coefficients measure the annual change in trajectory of the treatment relative to controls. We also explored two- and three-way interactions among sagebrush subspecies, treatment, and time since treatment to determine whether recovery trajectories varied by sagebrush subspecies. Because there was little evidence of these interactions across responses, we reported results of models with only main effects for subspecies. Effects of covariates are reported from models without interactions because they were largely unaffected by interactions between treatments and the time since treatment. For all analyses with mixed-effects models, we constructed 95% profiled confidence intervals and tested effects with Type II Wald F -tests that used the Kenward-Roger estimate for degrees of freedom (Kenward and Roger 1997).

To investigate effects of mixed-vegetation communities on satellite-based estimates of phenology and productivity, we used linear models to relate our measures of phenology and productivity to the ratio of herbaceous to sagebrush cover after accounting for elevation. For this analysis, we used a subset of sites representing the 10 highest and 10 lowest values for the ratio of herbaceous to sagebrush cover based on estimates from Homer et al. (2012) data and the metrics of phenology and productivity from 2006. Cover ratios were expressed categorically as high or low. We expected sites dominated by herbaceous vegetation to have higher productivity and experience senescence earlier than sites dominated by sagebrush.

3. Results

3.1 Vegetative cover

Results supported our hypotheses that treatments to remove sagebrush would increase herbaceous cover and result in phenology more indicative of grasslands (Figures 3, 4, A.1, A.2). However, effect magnitudes estimated from satellite imagery were small across all responses. At sites treated with fire, herbaceous cover was 3.7 percentage points higher than the control mean of 15.0% ($F_{1,55} = 23.7, p < 0.001$, 95% CI 2.3, 5.2). Some evidence suggested that herbaceous cover was higher on sites treated with mechanical removals ($F_{1,62} = 2.79, p = 0.100$) or herbicides ($F_{1,50} = 3.98, p = 0.051$) relative to controls, but 95% confidence intervals for mechanical effects slightly overlapped zero. We expected cumulative NDVI to increase with herbaceous cover, and it was slightly higher ($\leq 3.6\%$ of the mean) in areas treated with fire ($F_{1,1770} = 4.10, p = 0.043$), herbicides ($F_{1,1749} = 37.7, p < 0.001$), and mechanical removals ($F_{1,1784} = 7.62, p = 0.006$), compared to control areas.

3.2 Phenology

Most early-season phenometrics were similar between treatments and controls, regardless of treatment type and time since treatment (Figures 4, A.2). In contrast, mid- or late-season phenometrics in treated areas often differed from their controls. Specifically, dates of maximum NDVI and senescence rate occurred earlier in most treated areas relative to controls. Effect magnitudes were small for phenometrics (< 7 days), in cases where treatments differed from controls. Plots of phenometrics and productivity for treatments applied during the MODIS time-series (i.e., 2001-2016) illustrate small effect sizes evident in our analyses (Figure 5). For example, data points for IRG at treated sites followed those of their paired control sites with little deviation. Inter-annual differences in IRG exceeded 30 days within sites, but paired sites usually

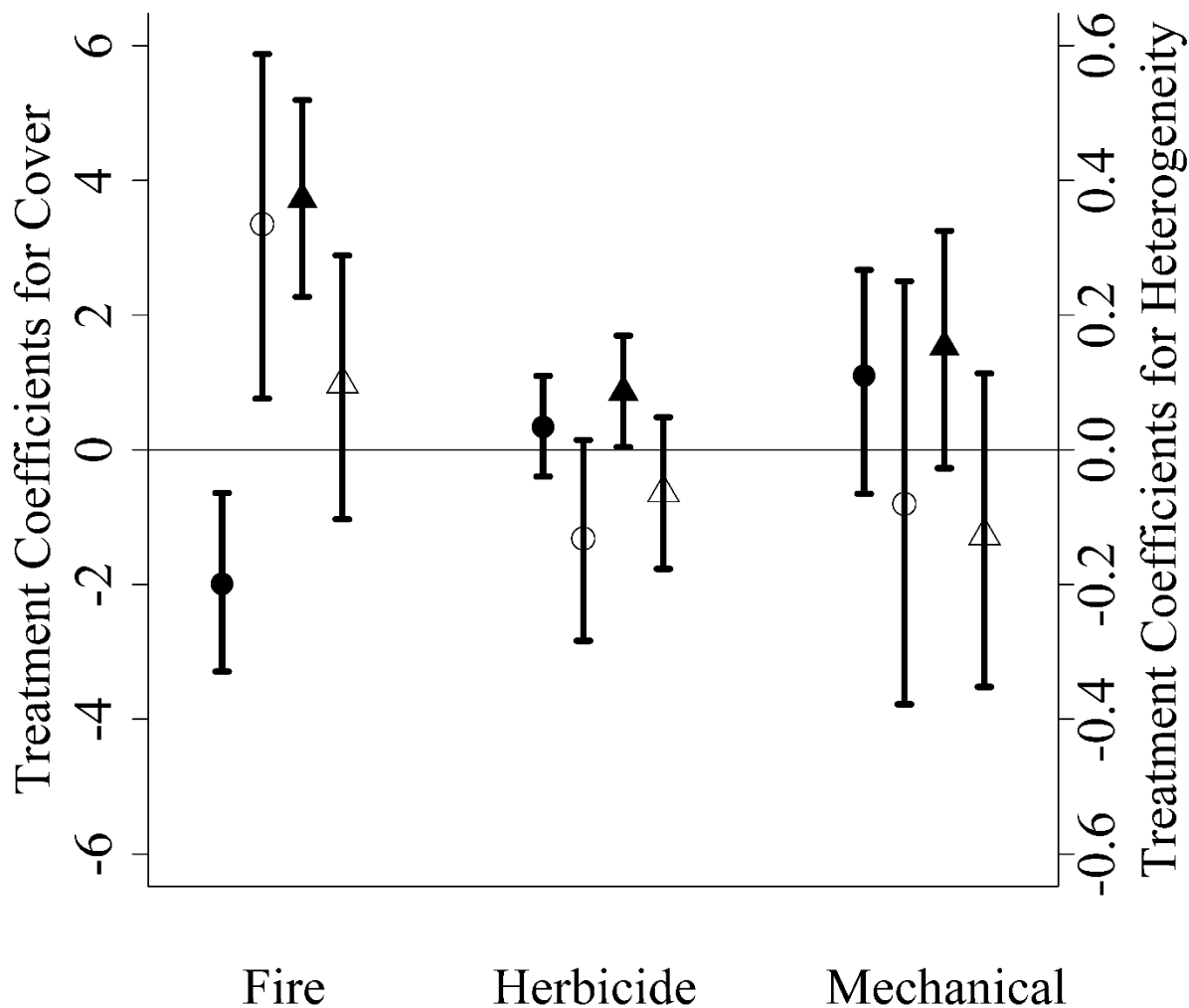


Figure 3. Coefficients and 95% CIs for main effects of prescribed-fire, herbicide, and mechanical treatments on sagebrush cover (solid circles), spatial heterogeneity (CV) of sagebrush cover (hollow circles), herbaceous cover (solid triangles), and spatial heterogeneity of herbaceous cover (hollow triangles) in Wyoming, USA, 1960-2005. Main effects represent the difference between controls and treatments averaged over all years in the data. Units for vegetative cover are percentage points. Log transformations were applied to heterogeneity responses. (black and white, one column)

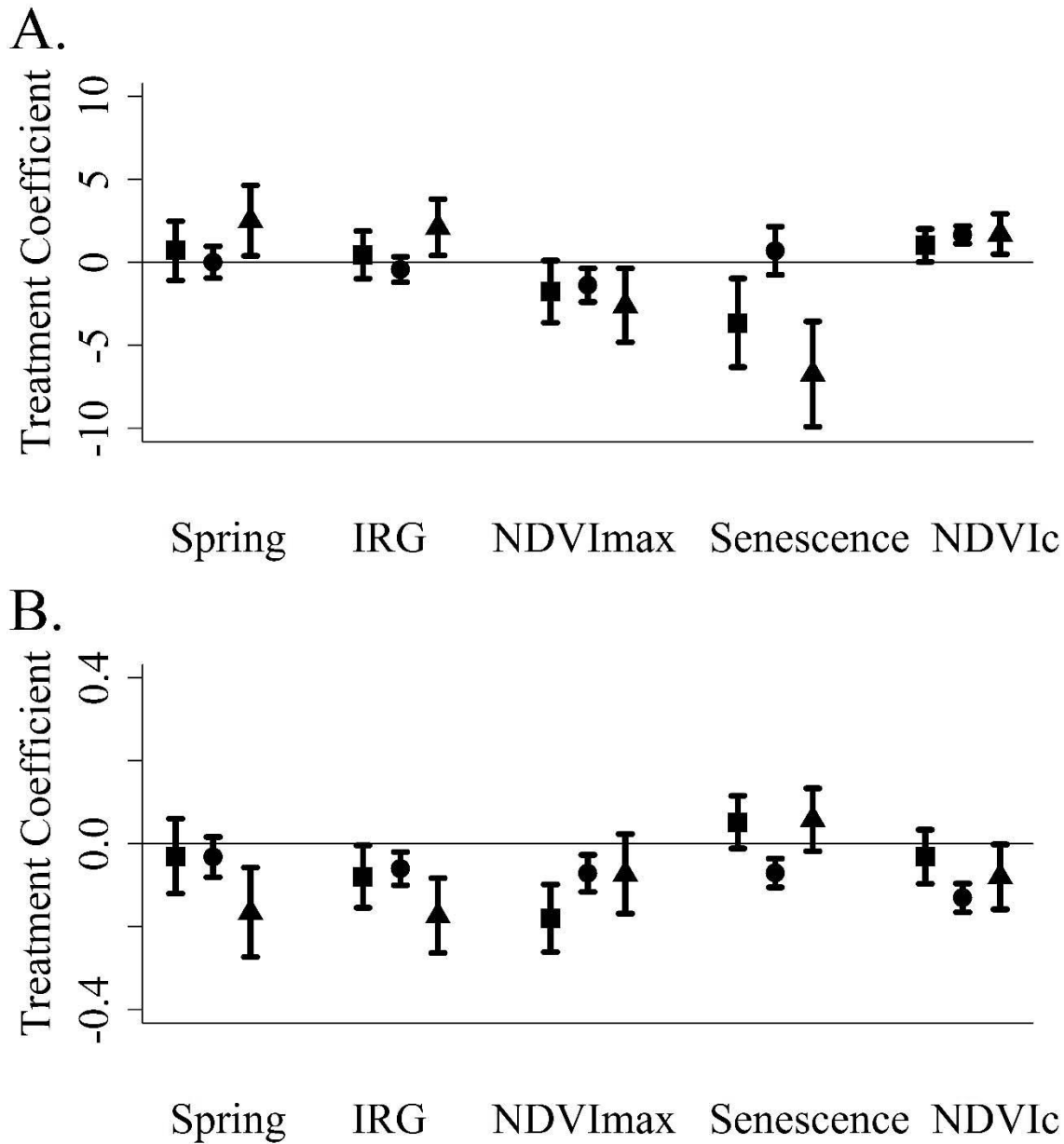


Figure 4. Main effects (mean and 95% CIs) of prescribed-fire (square), herbicide (circle), and mechanical (triangle) treatments on phenology and productivity of vegetation in Wyoming, USA, 1960-2016. Main effects represent the difference between controls and treatments averaged over all years in the data. Units are Julian dates of occurrence (A) for start of spring, maximum instantaneous rate of green-up (IRG), maximum NDVI, and maximum rate of senescence. Cumulative NDVI (NDVIc) was the sum of vegetative indices over the year. The coefficients of variation for these metrics represented their spatial heterogeneity (B) and were log-transformed for analysis. (black and white; two columns)

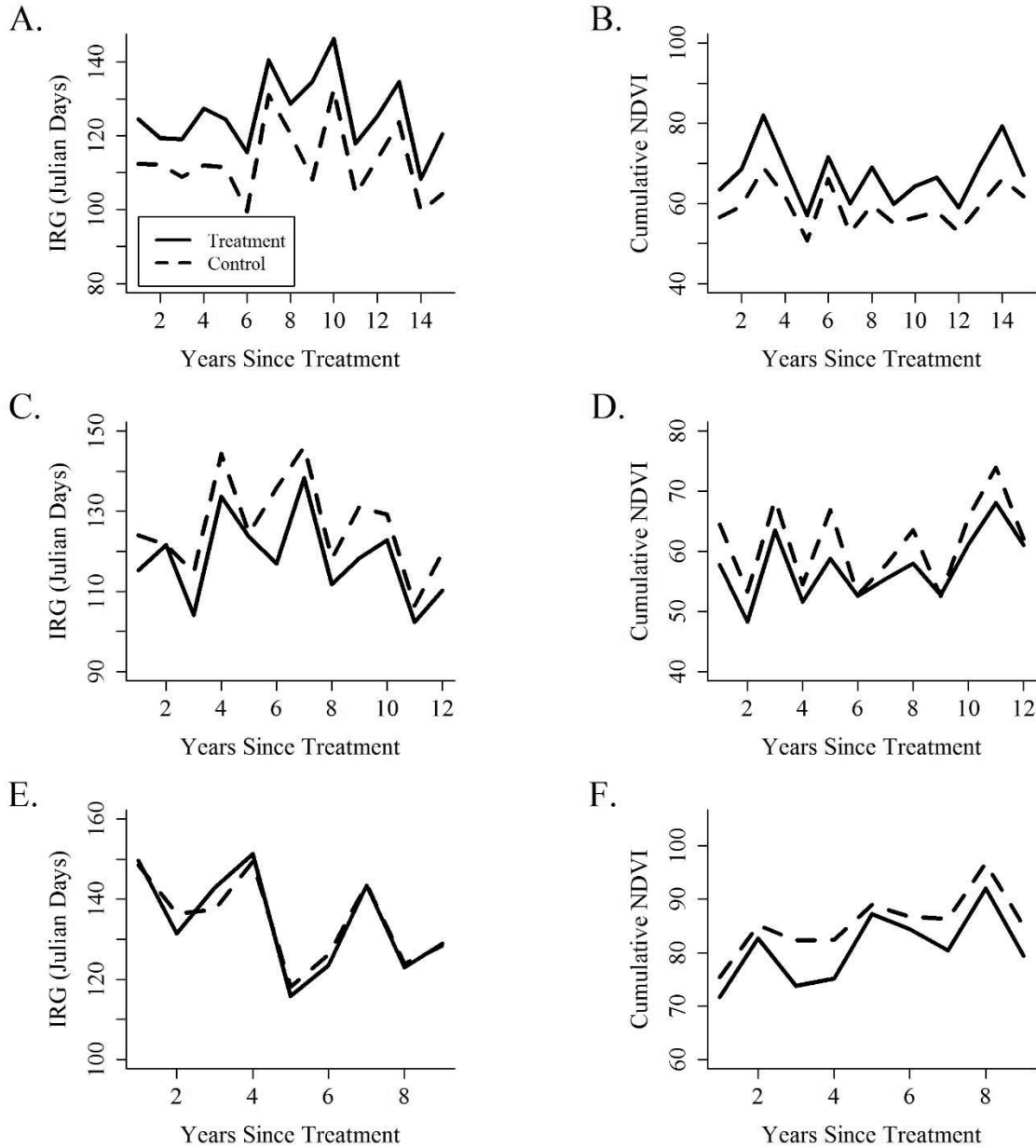


Figure 5. The dates of occurrence for maximum instantaneous rate of green-up (IRG) and the cumulative NDVI for each year following treatment with prescribed fire in 2001 (A, B), herbicide in 2004 (C, D), and mechanical removals in 2007 (E, F) in Wyoming, USA. Each plot represents the measured response at a site that was treated during the time of image acquisition by MODIS. (black and white, 2 columns)

achieved IRG within 5 days of each other in a given year. Clearly, factors other than sagebrush treatment had strong effects on phenology, as indicated by the influence of our covariates for temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation (Table 2). Changes to plant phenology associated with treatments were not substantial despite apparent differences in sagebrush and herbaceous cover that were evident in our analyses and visible in historical aerial imagery. Recent vegetative-cover estimates and satellite imagery revealed that sagebrush cover was high at many treated sites, which may reflect recovery and partial applications of treatments. Coefficients of variation (i.e., spatial heterogeneity) for phenometrics within sites were often lower in treated sites relative to controls, and differences were significant for several cases (Figures 4, A.2). Mechanical and herbicide treatments initially decreased spatial heterogeneity of most phenometrics, but heterogeneity rebounded over time. These patterns may reflect homogenization of the plant community following treatments and subsequent recovery of sagebrush.

3.3 Recovery

Few interactions were evident to indicate that treatment effects on phenology changed with time since treatment (Figure 6). Interactions between mechanical treatments and the time since treatment indicated that timing of spring start ($F_{1, 1670} = 10.9, p < 0.001$), spring end ($F_{1, 1676} = 13.3, p < 0.001$), and IRG ($F_{1, 1673} = 17.1, p < 0.001$) occurred later at sites treated with mechanical removals relative to controls, but then occurred increasingly earlier over time. Mechanical treatments also hastened senescence, but this effect dissipated over time ($F_{1, 1600}$

Table 2. Coefficients and SEs for abiotic covariates in the analysis of vegetative responses to prescribed fire, herbicide, and mechanical treatments in sagebrush communities in Wyoming, USA, 1960–2016.

	Precipitation (cm)		SWE (cm)		Temperature °C	
	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Start of spring (days)	0.638*	0.036	0.240*	0.027	5.31*	0.17
IRG (days)	0.317*	0.029	9.30e ⁻² *	2.16e ⁻²	5.62*	0.14
Senescence (days)	1.94*	0.05	0.132*	0.041	2.63*	0.26
Max NDVI (days)	0.505*	0.038	0.103*	0.028	2.93*	0.18
Cumulative NDVI	0.597*	0.020	7.22e ⁻² *	1.49e ⁻²	3.48*	0.097

*Significant relationships ($p < 0.05$).

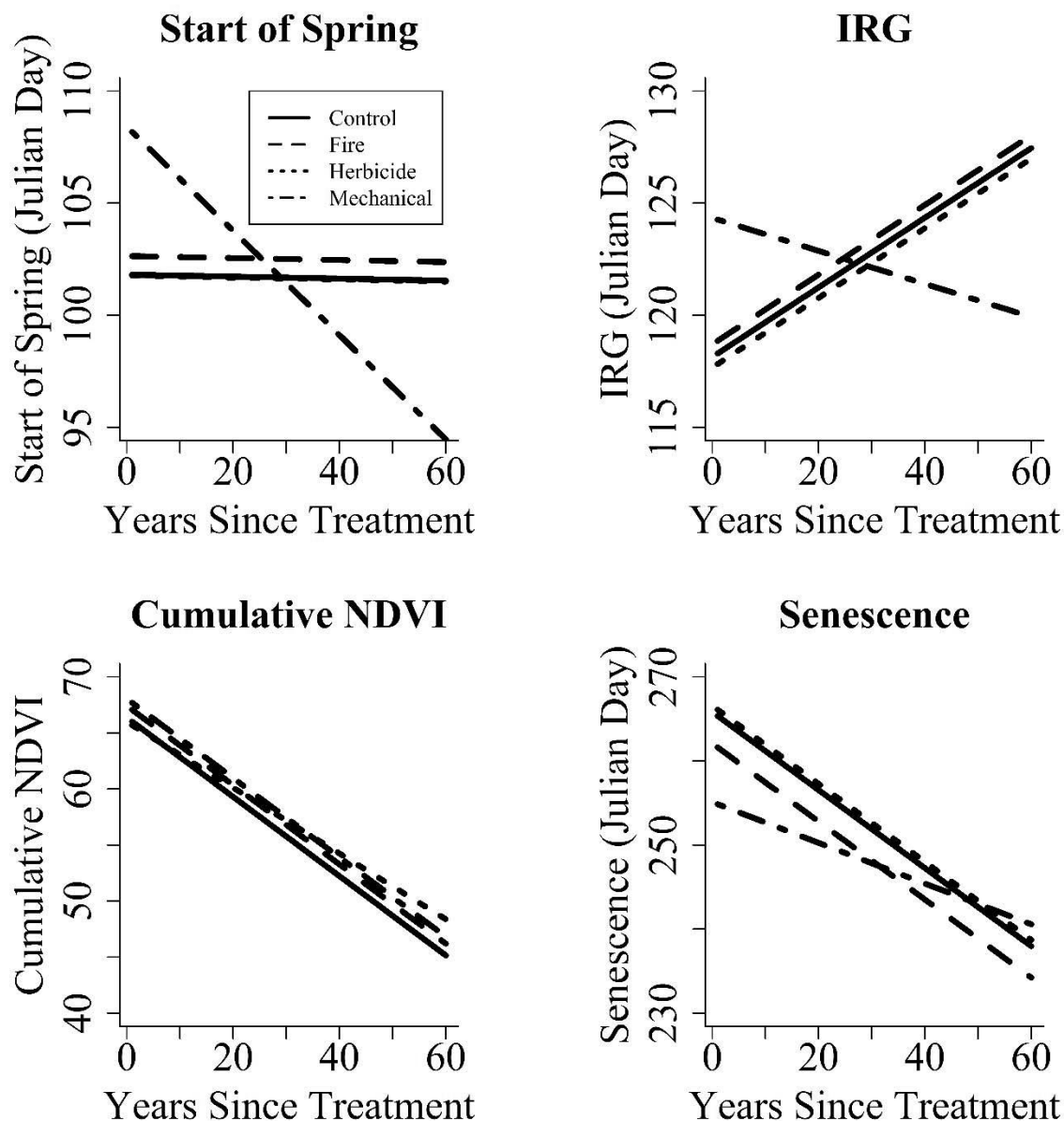


Figure 6. Fitted values from mixed-effect models for vegetative cover, phenology, and productivity for 1 to 60 years following sagebrush-reduction treatments. Interactions between mechanical treatments and time since treatments were evident for start of spring, IRG, and senescence, whereas effects of herbicides on cumulative NDVI varied with time relative to controls. Plots show estimated values for communities dominated by mountain sagebrush at average values for random intercepts, elevation, area-to-edge ratio, temperature, snow water equivalent, and growing-season precipitation for each year fitted. (black and white; two columns)

413 5.26, $p = 0.022$). Herbicides increased cumulative NDVI over time relative to controls ($F_{1, 1753}$
 414 6.73, $p = 0.010$).

415 Some evidence indicated that fire effects were more substantial than herbicide and
 416 mechanical treatments. For example, analysis of main effects indicated that sagebrush cover on
 417 fire-treated sites was 2.0 percentage points lower than the mean of 15.8% cover at controls based
 418 on differences between controls and treated areas averaged across all years following treatment
 419 ($F_{1, 55} = 8.35$, $p = 0.006$, 95% CI 0.6, 3.3). In contrast, sagebrush cover was similar between
 420 controls and sites with herbicide or mechanical treatments. Also, the increase of herbaceous
 421 cover following treatments was greatest for fire. Furthermore, fire effects did not change over
 422 time based on phenometrics and their spatial heterogeneity, whereas these vegetative
 423 characteristics recovered following herbicide and mechanical treatments. This suggests that
 424 sagebrush recovery occurred more rapidly following herbicide and mechanical treatments
 425 relative to fire.

426

427 3.4 Covariates

428 Temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation strongly influenced ($p < 0.001$)
 429 most metrics of phenology and productivity (Tables 2, A.1). All phases of phenology except
 430 senescence occurred earlier in years with warmer temperatures prior to green-up, whereas all
 431 phases occurred later with more growing-season precipitation. Cumulative NDVI increased with
 432 warmer temperatures ($F_{1, 1778} = 1266$, $p < 0.001$) and growing-season precipitation ($F_{1, 1743} = 928$,
 433 $p < 0.001$). Start of spring ($F_{1, 1770} = 78.8$, $p < 0.001$), IRG ($F_{1, 1770} = 18.5$, $p < 0.001$), and
 434 senescence ($F_{1, 1772} = 10.6$, $p = 0.001$) occurred later in years with greater snowpack.

Covariates for time since treatment, elevation, sagebrush subspecies, and the area-to-edge ratio for treatments explained significant variation in most metrics for vegetative cover, phenology, and productivity (Tables 3, A.2).

3.5 Vegetative cover and NDVI-based metrics

Our NDVI-based metrics varied little with the ratio of herbaceous cover to sagebrush cover, after accounting for elevation. Cumulative NDVI was higher on sites dominated more by herbaceous cover than sagebrush cover ($t_{17} = -2.66, p = 0.016$). Spring length and phenometrics did not differ between high and low ratios of herbaceous cover to sagebrush cover.

4. Discussion

4.1 NDVI metrics as indicators

Time series of NDVI values derived from satellite imagery can advance ecology and biological conservation by facilitating assessment of vegetative responses to disturbance and management activities at multiple spatial and temporal scales. The large seasonal and annual variations in NDVI within our time series indicate that temporal dynamics of vegetative communities in sagebrush ecosystems are substantial; such dynamics can be difficult to capture with field-based methods. Archives of satellite imagery can advance understanding of community change and disturbance (Nauman et al. 2017), especially when metrics like NDVI can discriminate vegetative communities explicitly in space and time (Bradley and Mustard 2008). The sensitivity of cumulative NDVI, late-season phenometrics (i.e., dates of maximum

456 Table 3. Coefficients and SEs for model covariates in the analysis of vegetative responses to prescribed fire, herbicide, and
457 mechanical treatments in sagebrush communities in Wyoming, USA, 1960 2016.

	Time Since Treatment		Elevation (km)		Species ^a		Area to Edge Ratio (ha/km)	
	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Sagebrush %	5.80e ⁻²	3.14e ⁻²	22.0*	4.1	2.80*	0.93	1.44e ⁻²	1.75e ⁻²
Herbaceous %	2.68e ⁻²	3.38e ⁻²	7.98	4.48	4.20*	1.00	2.51e ⁻²	1.90e ⁻²
Start of spring (days)	2.41e ⁻²	4.24e ⁻²	66.3*	6.7	5.79*	1.96	3.11e ⁻³	3.07e ⁻²
IRG (days)	0.135*	0.034	50.2*	5.4	7.65*	1.57	1.92e ⁻²	2.46e ⁻²
Senescence (days)	0.444*	0.061	58.3*	9.3	8.88*	2.60	0.161*	0.044
Max NDVI (days)	3.40e ⁻²	4.26e ⁻²	36.8*	6.5	8.44*	1.82	0.103*	3.1e ⁻²
Cumulative NDVI	0.334*	0.027	73.6*	4.7	8.40*	2.08	5.65e ⁻² *	1.97e ⁻²

458 ^aCoefficients represent the value added to means for sites with mountain big sagebrush to estimate sites with Wyoming big sagebrush.

459 *Significant relationships ($p < 0.05$).

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NDVI and maximum rate of senescence), and spatial heterogeneity of several phenometrics to sagebrush treatments suggest that they have good potential as ecological indicators for assessments of disturbance in sagebrush ecosystems. These metrics can complement static maps of vegetative cover (e.g., Homer et al. 2012, 2015) through their spatiotemporal coverage, wide availability, and biological relevance.

Several of the satellite-based measures of vegetative cover and phenology that were sensitive to sagebrush treatments have also explained habitat use by wildlife including Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*; Kirol et al. 2015), Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*; Wallace et al. 2016), Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Tack and Fedy 2015), and several ungulate species (Merkle et al. 2016, Aikens et al. 2017). Ecological indicators that express biologically meaningful information for wildlife are particularly useful in assessments of management activities on habitat quality and biodiversity. The effects of sagebrush treatments or other disturbances on wildlife can be measured quantitatively with habitat suitability models. Such models include NDVI metrics sensitive to treatments as predictors of suitability. Under these circumstances, several extensions are possible to assess effects of sagebrush treatments on habitat amount, distribution, and connectivity (McRae et al. 2008). In addition, many habitat suitability models can be forecasted to assess risks to wildlife from proposed management actions or climate change (Lawler et al. 2009, Homer et al. 2015).

The archive of satellite imagery allowed us to retroactively assess effects of treatments applied over the past century. Short-term treatment effects were estimated for treatments applied before MODIS was launched, but were measured directly on recent treatments. Precision of effect estimates and understanding of long-term vegetation responses to disturbances should improve with lengthening of the archive of satellite imagery. This approach is efficient because it

exploits existing data and analyses can be especially rapid in cloud-computing environments, where archives of satellite imagery now can be accessed and manipulated without cost (Klein et al. 2017). These techniques can be applied to other ecosystems (e.g., forests, meadows) or types of disturbances like wildfire (van Leeuwen et al. 2010) and management activities (e.g., timber harvest). Recent efforts by land-management agencies to catalogue vegetation treatments to support these types of analyses (Pilliod and Welty 2013) will provide rich datasets that should advance management and ecological theory on disturbance and recovery.

The primary challenges to this approach remain in validation and interpretation of results. Because indicators like IRG have explained resource use by wildlife (Merkle et al. 2016, Aikens et al. 2017), it is clear they are biologically meaningful and useful for research or management purposes. However, translating land-surface phenologies derived from satellite imagery to infer species-specific dynamics of vegetation can be difficult because NDVI values from individual image pixels often represent mixed-species communities (Henebry and de Beurs 2013). Efforts to map vegetation communities based on NDVI time series have shown that some communities have unique signatures, which supports their use for measuring vegetative change (Bradley 2014).

Our results generally support expectations that treatments to remove sagebrush should increase herbaceous vegetation (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Davies et al. 2012a, Swanson et al. 2016), resulting in higher productivity (i.e., cumulative NDVI) and altered phenology. The consistencies in our results for higher herbaceous cover, higher cumulative NDVI, and lower heterogeneity of phenometrics associated with treatments suggest changes in vegetative composition were large enough to detect in satellite imagery. Where statistically significant differences between controls and treatments were evident, however, effect sizes were small,

based on our metrics derived from satellite imagery. In contrast, inter-annual variation in phenometrics and productivity was high relative to treatment effects and was explained by temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation. Treatment effects on phenology and productivity may seem small because they represent a shift in community dominance away from sagebrush and towards herbaceous species, but interpreting NDVI values and their variability across vegetative communities remains an active area of research (Garrouette et al. 2016).

4.2 Vegetative cover

Several studies have assessed effects of sagebrush treatments with field measures of vegetation where overall direction of effects were similar to ours, but effect sizes across studies have differed considerably (Beck et al. 2012). For example, our results are consistent with other studies in finding that fire was more effective than herbicide and mechanical treatments at achieving long-term reductions in sagebrush cover and increases in herbaceous cover (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Wambolt et al. 2001, Ellsworth et al. 2016). However, our differences in cover of sagebrush and herbaceous vegetation between controls and fire-treated sites were small compared to near-complete eradication of sagebrush cover commonly observed following fire treatments (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Lesica et al. 2007, Pyke et al. 2014; but see Ellsworth and Kauffman 2017). Likewise, mechanical and herbicide treatments have been effective at reducing sagebrush cover to extremely low levels of coverage (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Sturges 1993, Davies et al. 2009), but our results did not show statistical differences in sagebrush cover between controls and sites with these treatments. Full recovery of sagebrush following fire has been estimated to take >30 years for mountain big sagebrush, and considerably longer for

Wyoming big sagebrush (Baker 2006, Lesica et al. 2007, Ellsworth et al. 2016). We likely detected sagebrush removal by fire because of the long period required for sagebrush recovery following fire and all fire treatments occurred within 17 years of the imagery used to estimate vegetative cover. In contrast, recovery can occur within 15 years after mechanical or herbicide treatments (Wambolt and Payne 1986, Davies et al. 2009). Because few herbicide and mechanical treatments in our data set occurred near the acquisition time for the imagery used to estimate vegetative cover, it is likely that most of these sites experienced some recovery of sagebrush prior to cover estimation, which resulted in underestimation of short-term treatment effects on sagebrush removal. In addition, managers increasingly have used herbicide or mechanical treatments to thin sagebrush or remove sagebrush in spatially-mosaicked patterns (Olson and Whitson 2002, Baxter et al. 2017). Whereas field studies have estimated treatment effects by sampling only within treated areas that may have a mosaic distribution (Dahlgren et al. 2006), our approach found relatively small effects because it did not discriminate treated and untreated patches within sites.

Sagebrush treatments are commonly applied to stimulate herbaceous vegetation, but end results have varied (Sturges 1993, Olson and Whitson 2002, Pyke et al. 2014, Swanson et al. 2016). For example, Wambolt and Payne (1986) found that herbaceous vegetation (kg/ha) at sites treated with fire or herbicide was more than doubled the amount at controls, 18 years after treatment. In contrast, Wambolt et al. (2001) did not find significant increases in herbaceous vegetation following fire treatments. Our effect estimates of <4 percentage points in herbaceous cover associated with treatments are small relative to the findings of Wambolt and Payne (1986) because mean percent cover at our control sites was 15%. Nevertheless, our effect sizes for

herbaceous cover fall within the range of variability reported by field studies of vegetation responses to sagebrush treatments.

Many field studies have documented complex, short-term responses of vegetative cover to sagebrush treatments that were not evident in our assessment (Sturges 1993, Watts and Wambolt 1996, Olson and Whitson 2002, Lesica et al. 2007, Davies et al. 2012a, 2012b, 2012c).

Responses are often lagged, nonlinear, and depend on treatment and vegetation type, yet, our models indicated that linear fit was adequate for many responses to treatments. Linear recovery of sagebrush has been documented (Lesica et al. 2007, Davies et al. 2009), but any nonlinear responses in our data may have been masked by low sample sizes for recent treatments and mosaicked or partial treatments. Our ability to detect nonlinear responses with satellite-based measures will improve as time series of vegetative cover become available (Homer et al. 2015).

4.3 Phenology and productivity

Phenologies and NDVI time series of cheatgrass, perennial bunchgrass, and sagebrush differ in their timing of senescence and cumulative NDVI values (Kremer and Running 1993). Sagebrush are evergreen but develop relatively large, ephemeral leaves in late winter or early spring that supplement smaller, perennial leaves during the growing season (Miller and Shultz 1987, Evans and Black 1993). The emergence of ephemeral leaves increases leaf area, which likely contributes to spring increases in NDVI values (Baghzouz et al. 2010). Green-up of herbaceous vegetation coincides with emergence of ephemeral leaves on sagebrush, but senescence of cheatgrass precedes senescence of perennial grasses by a month (Kremer and Running 1993). New perennial leaves and a second set of small, ephemeral leaves that persist until fall begin to emerge on sagebrush in late spring. Perennial leaves from the previous year

and the first set of ephemeral leaves senesce and begin abscission in summer. These events initiate the seasonal decline in NDVI indicative of sagebrush senescence, but, unlike cheatgrass and perennial grasses, overall leaf activity of sagebrush continues for two more months. Cumulative NDVI of sites dominated by grass consistently exceeds that of sagebrush-dominated sites because NDVI of standing dead grass that remains throughout the season is higher than NDVI of bare ground, which is common in sagebrush communities (Kremer and Running 1993, Bradley and Mustard 2008). We found few differences between treated sites and controls based on early season phenometrics (e.g., spring start, spring end, IRG), but greater cumulative NDVI scores and earlier senescence at treated sites. The increases in herbaceous cover following treatments suggest increased dominance by grasses that exhibit these phenological characteristics. Although our results are consistent with these patterns, effect sizes for senescence were far less than one month and differences in cumulative NDVI were small relative to year-end values.

Small magnitudes of treatment effects on senescence and productivity likely reflect the mixture of grasses and sagebrush, which exhibit distinct phenologies and NDVI values across our sites. Whereas previous descriptions of NDVI-based phenologies for sagebrush and grass communities examined sites strongly dominated by each vegetation type, our sites had greater mixtures of these communities that we speculate could yield land-surface phenologies that represent an average of the grass and sagebrush communities weighted by their relative abundances. Although phenology of dominant vegetation is expected to be reflected in NDVI curves, little is known about how curves behave for mixed communities. Despite the seasonal exchange of ephemeral and perennial leaves, it seems unlikely that sagebrush contributes much to intra-annual fluctuations in the NDVI curve because *Artemisia* species are evergreen. Lower

amplitudes of NDVI curves for sagebrush-dominated communities may reflect lower abundances of herbaceous vegetation, given that fluctuations in the NDVI curve are primarily driven by the herbaceous component. Our results suggest that cumulative NDVI increases with the ratio of herbaceous to sagebrush cover, consistent with previous findings (Kremer and Running 1993, Bradley and Mustard 2008). We could not discriminate changes in land-surface phenology due to shifts in species composition from phenological shifts within plant species (Wroblewski and Kauffman 1987), but increased dominance by herbaceous vegetation following treatments was probably most influential on land-surface phenology. The presence of cheatgrass at some of our sites may have contributed to variation in our phenometric responses. Sagebrush treatments can have variable effects on cheatgrass invasions that depend on range condition and exposure to cheatgrass (Davies et al. 2012b, 2012c, Swanson et al. 2016). New methods that use time series of NDVI to map cheatgrass distribution (Clinton et al. 2010, Bradley 2014) could improve our understanding of vegetative responses to sagebrush treatments by providing a means to account for composition of herbaceous species.

Several covariates consistently explained significant variation in the responses suggesting that the metrics were sensitive to broad-, if not always local-scale, factors. As expected, timing of green-up occurred later with increasing elevation and at sites dominated by mountain big sagebrush. Although the area-to-edge ratio explained significant variation in some of our responses, no clear pattern emerged to suggest that seed source and proximity strongly affected our results. Inter-annual variability in phenometrics commonly exceeded the differences between controls and treatments. Much of this variation was explained by temperature, snowpack, and growing-season precipitation, underscoring the importance of accounting for these factors in analyses of phenology (Cong et al. 2013).

4.4 Conclusions

Time series of NDVI from MODIS constitute a unique and valuable tool for assessing vegetation responses to natural disturbances and management activities over landscapes and many years. Cumulative NDVI and late-season phenometrics like senescence were sensitive to sagebrush treatments and may serve as good indicators of vegetative change in sagebrush ecosystems. Differences between control and treated sites based on these metrics most likely reflected increased dominance of herbaceous vegetation after treatments. Spatial heterogeneity for most metrics was also sensitive to treatment and may reflect homogenization of NDVI curves that arises when vegetation communities are shifted to a more uniform mixture of sagebrush and herbaceous vegetation. Phenometrics for vegetation dynamics known to influence wildlife migrations (e.g., mule deer, moose, and bighorn sheep; Merkle et al. 2016, Aikens et al. 2017) were largely unaffected by treatments, as evidenced by the lack of changes to the timing of green-up. However, the influences of productivity and senescence timing on fall migrations of wildlife and their forage quality are unknown. Further assessment of treatment effects on wildlife is needed because local-level treatment effects on important forage species may not be captured with the methods of this study. Fire appeared more effective than herbicides and mechanical treatments for removing sagebrush, but all three treatments increased herbaceous coverage. Several researchers have cautioned the use of fire when restoration of sagebrush communities is an objective, especially when invasion by exotic plants is likely (Wambolt et al. 2001, Lesica et al. 2007, Beck et al. 2012). However, fire has also aided restoration of sagebrush communities invaded by conifers (Bates and Svejcar 2009, Miller et al. 2014) and will continue to be an important tool in sagebrush management. Satellite imagery offers objective and spatiotemporally extensive assessment of change in vegetation that can complement field studies and inform

complex decisions on sagebrush management, such as application of fire for restoration. As archives of satellite imagery and associated map products grow, refinement of our method should capture nuanced responses of vegetation to management and disturbances to aid managers and improve understanding of ecosystem dynamics.

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902 Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to assess land degradation at multiple
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904 University Center for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), and The Scientific and Technical
905 Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (STAP/GEF).
- 906

From: Hinson, Alex
Sent: 2018-01-02T12:40:23-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: *News Alert* The Energy 202: Trump took a long break this December. His environmental deputies did not.
Received: 2018-01-02T12:40:27-05:00

Washington Post: The Energy 202: Trump took a long break this December. His environmental deputies did not.

Dino Grandoni
January 2, 2018

While a cold snap gripped much of the United States at year's end, President Trump mocked the majority of Americans who think man-made climate change is real.

Pointing to the thermometer in his adoptive home of Washington and elsewhere along the East Coast while vacationing in Florida, Trump suggested that what the country might need is a bit of warming: "In the East, it could be the COLDEST New Year's Eve on record. Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Bundle up!"

Predictably, Democrats and activists who bemoaned Trump's ignorance of climate science since he began running for president howled in indignation.

But less conspicuously but more consequently, the gears within the administration, which have spent much of 2017 unwinding former President Barack Obama's energy and environmental policies, were also humming away over the holidays.

Trump officials within the Interior Department were particularly busy over the break.

On Dec. 29, the last business day of 2017, Interior rescinded a 2015 Obama administration rule that would have tightened standards for well construction and wastewater management for hydraulic fracturing and required the disclosure of the chemicals contained in fracking fluids. The agency rescinded the rule it said would save "up to \$9,690 per well or approximately \$14 million to \$34 million per year" in industry compliance costs.

Also that day, another office within Interior, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, published new regulations rewriting rules regarding devices used during offshore oil production that were put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. Among the rules tossed is one requiring that safety and pollution prevention equipment be inspected by independent auditors — an idea born out of the bipartisan presidential commission that investigated the oil spill.

Shortly before Christmas, Interior moved to renew leases for copper and nickel mines that are on the border of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and that are owned by a billionaire who rents a home to Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner in Washington. Under Obama, U.S. Forest Service had decided not to renew the leases while federal officials launched a formal

review of the operation's environmental impact.

Finally, there was one legal decision that, for wildlife activists, was for the birds: Interior's principal deputy solicitor wrote to other department employees that the Trump administration would no longer prosecute oil and gas, wind, and solar operators for accidentally killing birds under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Over the years, the federal government has used the law to impose large fines after environmental disasters including, again, the BP oil spill.

The takeaway: the Trump administration isn't done with its wholesale rolling back of environmental and energy policy as we head into the administration's second year.

###

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

To: Robbins, Tasha[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Thomas Irwin[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]
From: Sellars, Roslyn
Sent: 2018-01-02T15:30:29-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-02T15:31:20-05:00

Tasha

We request that the following FWS attendees join via phone.
Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson and Theresa Rabot from our Pacific Regional Office (via phone)

Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:58 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha
I am checking with our folks to see who should attend.
Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:41 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Roslyn,
Jason is scheduled to meet with the below on Thursday, January 4 at 10 am. Who from your shop should attend and do we need someone from the Pacific Region to join by phone? I think they may have spoken with someone from the Region before. Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

Tasha

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Treiser, Raya B.** <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:06 AM
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
To: "Robbins, Tasha" <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Conway, Laura (Lori)" <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.

Best,

Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc

Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,

Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm

Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B.

<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose those dates. Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002, cell 202-(b) (6)

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

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Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale
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Washington, DC 20006 USA
+1 202 663 6002 (t)
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raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160

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Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

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To: Sellars, Roslyn[roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]; Thomas Irwin[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-02T15:37:14-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-02T15:37:22-05:00

Thanks Roslyn,
Is there any information Jason needs to know prior to the meeting?

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:30 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

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We request that the following FWS attendees join via phone.
Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
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Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc
Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

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Cc: Treiser, Raya B.[Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-02T15:43:01-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-02T15:43:07-05:00

Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!
Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale
Assistant to Andy Spielman,

Kayla Byers and Sarah Judkins
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From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.

Best,

Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc
Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,

Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm

Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B.
<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose those dates. Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002, cell 202-

(b) (6)

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM
To: [Tasha L Robbins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Tasha.L.Robbins@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

Best,

Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale
1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006 USA
+1 202 663 6002 (t)
+1 202 663 6363 (f)
raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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--

Tasha L. Robbins

Executive Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary

for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160

202-208-4416

Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

--

Tasha L. Robbins

Executive Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary

for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160

202-208-4416

Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

--

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1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
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--

Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_l_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
From: (b)(6)
Sent: 2018-01-02T16:11:46-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: If you're still looking for a NPS Director
Received: 2018-08-07T10:31:19-05:00

Happy New Year Aurelia: Hope you had a relaxing holiday. I read over the holidays the brewing concerns with expanding cell phone services through national parks. As a parent who uses trips to our parks to get my son out of his phone and actually enjoy nature, I can see both sides. Interesting to see if public safety will win the day. NPS will also need to follow up with a personal drone policy in National parks as narcissistic nature lovers record themselves overhead as they hike or climb from. Makes selfie sticks look lame by comparison.

As to your question, I too am in the endangered species business as the DOD Policy lead. Could you pass on the issue to me via email, phone, or meeting and I will run it down in the building with my staff? Thanks.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)
Phone: (703) (b)(6)
Cell: (571) (b)(6)

From: Skipwith, Aurelia [mailto:aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 6:56 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6).mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: If you're still looking for a NPS Director

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

(b)(6)

It was a pleasure to meet you and I loved your name tag. Congratulations on your current appointment and your willingness to give up your post to be NPS Director :o!!! I will keep you in mind as we are really working to fill these roles.

I deal a lot with endangered species and I sometime have a next with USACE and have a question on a project that Corps is leading. Who do you recommend I talk with? Much appreciated.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-5837

On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 1:40 PM, (b)(6) (US) (b)(6).mil <Caution-mailto (b)(6).mil > wrote:
Hi Aurelia: Very happy to have met you last Thursday night at the DOI Christmas party. I saw the politico clip below and just had to follow up. I was the guy with the "NPS Wannabe" nametag that Kate MacGregor briefly introduced.

Not sure where you are on filling the NPS Director's slot, but I'm standing by for the call if you need a plan b. Admittedly, I have no DOI or prior park management experience. I do have a 30 year professional background in facilities management (b)(6) (b)(6) and my current position (b)(6) (b)(6) could be beneficial for DOI reform goals. Plus, (b)(6) (b)(6) Realize it's a huge stretch and I thoroughly enjoy my current appointment, but NPS has always been my dream job... R/ (b)(6)

"FILL EM' UP? Murkowski said she's disappointed the Trump administration has yet to fill a host of "pretty high-profile" positions throughout the administration, such as leaders for the Fish & Wildlife Service, BLM and National Park Service. "We need to have these positions filled," she said, adding there are efforts afoot to clear some slots under the Energy Committee's jurisdiction via consent before the end of the year."

Respectfully,

(b)(6)
Phone: (703) (b)(6)
Cell: (571) (b)(6)

To: Gary Frazer[gary_frazer@fws.gov]; Gina Shultz[GINA_SHULTZ@fws.gov]
Cc: Steven Howke[steven_howke@ios.doi.gov]; Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
From: Rauch, Paul
Sent: 2018-01-02T16:37:19-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: November Grants
Received: 2018-01-02T16:37:29-05:00

Gary/Gina,

Steven Howke had some questions when he reviewed our November grants package. Could you look into to these and get back to him as soon as possible. Gary - I have placed a copy of the spreadsheet on your chair. Specifically;

Line 18: cooperative endangered species fund project with California - column on flexibility answered no- letter already issued. Would like to know more about this process and why letter issued prior to DOI approval.

Line 22: Endangered species grants- land acquisition in Florida - How much land and who is the seller?

Lines 25-27 - Also ES grants - notes say they are all resubmissions. Why? What was the issue with the first submission?

Please respond directly back to Steven and Aurellia with a cc to me so I can track also.

Thanks

Paul

To: Robbins, Tasha[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Treiser, Raya B.[Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com]
From: Conway, Laura (Lori)
Sent: 2018-01-02T16:47:06-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larrabee
Received: 2018-01-02T16:47:32-05:00

Hi Tasha,

Great. Thank you. Below is a list of individuals that will meet at Main Interior. Can they ask for you or what room will they be meeting? Also, who will be attending in person?

Many thanks,

Lori

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc
Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at NextEra Energy, Inc
Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale
Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 1:43 PM
To: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Hi Tasha,
Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!
Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale
Assistant to Andy Spielman,
Kayla Byers and Sarah Judkins
[1225 Seventeenth St.](#)
Suite 2600
Denver, CO 80202 USA
+1 720 274 3136 (t)
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lori.conway@wilmerhale.com

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Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.
Best,
Raya

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Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at NextEra Energy, Inc
Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale
Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,
Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm
Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose those dates.

Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,
Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

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Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you
Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002, cell 202(b) (6) [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,
Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Tasha | Robbins@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

Best,
Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale

1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20006 USA

+1 202 663 6002 (t)

+1 202 663 6363 (f)

raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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--

Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
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[1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160](#)
202-208-4416

Tasha.L.Robbins@ios.doi.gov

--

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Executive Assistant
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[1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160](#)
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Tasha I Robbins@ios.doi.gov

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Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
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1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha I Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Andrea Travnicek[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]
From: Skipwith, Aurelia
Sent: 2018-01-02T21:02:50-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Reimbursable agreements for FWS and NPS
Received: 2018-01-02T21:03:20-05:00
[2017-12-19 LCC project data request \(1\).xlsx](#)
[SSP Projects 2015 to 2017 \(2\).xlsx](#)

Andrea,

Welcome Back! I hope you had a wonderful Holiday.

I've reviewed USGS's list and have a couple of questions on some projects. I requested FWS to provide me their list of projects that FWS has authorized USGS to conduct. I've tried to compare these lists, but due to how the categories it's hard. But from what I can tell, there's very little overlap between USGS's list and FWS's list.

The SSP spreadsheet lists the specific projects that USGS does for FWS under the specific SSP funding. The LCC spreadsheet are the projects funded from LCCs with Science Applications dollars. There are four FWS USGS projects: see rows 11, 134, 137, and 138.

Let's find time next week to get together and discuss a path forward. Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

On Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 8:12 AM, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Let me know if you have questions or want more information.

Thanks

Andrea

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Werkheiser, William" <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 1:02:30 PM EST
To: Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Judy J Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Joanne C Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, William Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Orsi

<korsi@usgs.gov>

Subject: Reimbursable agreements for FWS and NPS

Hi Andrea: Aurelia had asked for a list of reimbursable work that USGS is doing in cooperation with NPS and FWS. Attached is a list of current agreements with those two agencies. Let me know if you need anything else. Bill

--

William H. Werkheiser
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 100
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-7411

Notes: Does not include matching funds (only funds that came from FWS or the LCC), some LCCs may not have all project entries completed, includes records where the "Start Date" fell on or between 10-01-2014 and 09-30-2017. Some entries may not adhere neatly to the definition of "research/studies," such as funds used for a climate change adaptation workshop where knowledge was produced but not a traditional "research" activity, or a workshop where state partners got together to identify conservation priorities. Another example would be funds used for generating maps. In some cases projects included research plus outreach; unable to parse out what amount went to research. \Might need to get a better sense of type of activities they want information about.

LCC	Name of Project	Start Date	Contract End Date	Award Number	Estimated Cost	Entity Conducting Research
GCP	Rio Grande Forum Support and Assistance	2016-11-28	2017-05-15		\$55,900.00	DJ Case and Associates
GCP	Monarch-pollinator monitoring, tracking and evaluation of grassland habitat and management practices in the southern Great Plains	2017-03-01	2019-03-31		\$50,000.00	Oklahoma State University
GCP	Pollinators in Texas	2017-01-01	2018-12-31		\$50,000.00	University of Texas at San Antonio
GCP	Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation on Northern Bobwhites in the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative	2015-08-10	2016-02-10		\$74,786.00	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
GCP	Developing Regional Partnerships for the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative - Urban Monarch Technicians	2016-05-01	2017-01-31		\$77,500.00	American Bird Conservancy, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
GCP	Red River Basin Stakeholder Engagement	2016-06-20	2017-05-15		\$55,900.00	DJ Case and Associates
GCP	Habitat Loss and Fragmentation Effects in the Management of Northern Bobwhites and Eastern Meadowlarks	2015-08-10	2016-02-28		\$50,000.00	University of Georgia
GCP	Establishing Explicit Biological Objectives to Guide Strategic Habitat Conservation for the Gulf Coast	2014-10-01	2019-04-01		\$46,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey - Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
GCP	High resolution landcover for the Western Gulf Coastal Plain of Louisiana and Texas	2016-10-01	2017-10-01		\$76,487.28	USGS
GCP	Strategic Coordination of Quadrula Species Research and Conservation	2015-05-01	2016-04-30		\$59,915.00	Michigan State University
GCP	Evaluation and Refinement of a Decision Support Tool for Mottled Duck Habitat Conservation in the Western Gulf Coast	2015-05-11	2015-12-31		\$47,368.00	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
GCP	Quantification of Alligator Gar Recruitment Dynamics Using a River-Stage Specific Floodplain Inundation Model	2015-06-01	2018-05-31		\$199,973.00	University of North Texas
GCP	Developing a process and conservation application for Landscape Conservation Design for the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative	2017-05-19	2018-12-31		\$199,990.74	Texas State University
GCP	Support for monitoring and evaluation of grassland birds, habitat, and management practices for focal species in Oklahoma	2017-06-01	2018-08-31		\$25,000.00	Oklahoma State University

GCP	Mapping shallow reefs using low-cost side scanning sonar and drone photography systems	2015-05-01	2016-08-31		\$40,000.00	University of Houston - Clear Lake
GCP	Incorporating an approach to aid river and reservoir fisheries in an altered landscape	2015-07-01	2017-12-31		\$105,622.00	U.S. Geological Survey
California	Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning for National Forest Lands in Southern California	2014-10-01	2016-02-01	F12AC00583	\$172,886.00	EcoAdapt
California	Effects of climate change on California tiger salamanders in the Central Valley	2015-07-01	2018-12-31		\$269,047.00	Conservation Science Partners
California	Fighting drought with fire: Can prescribed fire increase forest resistance to drought?	2016-07-01	2018-07-01		\$98,231.00	U.S. Geological Survey, Redwood Field Station
California	North-Central California Coast and Ocean Climate-Smart Adaptation Project	2014-10-01	2016-11-01		\$132,874.00	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
California	Building Habitat Connectivity for Climate Adaptation	2016-01-09	2018-01-09		\$194,721.00	Pepperwood Foundation
California	Managing Sierra Nevada Meadows for Water Supply & Habitat Benefits	2015-07-01	2017-03-30		\$30,000.00	American Rivers
California	Assessing the impacts of future climates and fire on hydrologic regimes in the Mediterranean-type ecosystems of southern California	2014-10-01	2017-07-01		\$139,996.00	University of California, Davis, Department of Environmental Science and Policy
California	Climate Change Summaries for the SF Bay NWR Complex	2017-01-01	2017-10-01		\$10,000.00	California LCC
California	Decision support for meadow conservation and restoration in the Sierra Nevada Ecoregion	2016-07-01	2018-07-01	F16AC00600	\$187,530.00	Conservation Science Partners
Desert	Tribal Climate Adaptation Workshop	2015-07-20	2016-07-19		\$19,387.00	University of Arizona
Desert	Grasslands Conservation Geospatial Data Compilation and Synthesis	2014-10-01	2015-09-30		\$103,761.00	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Milkweeds for Monarchs St Louis Urban Prairie Education, Outreach and Research Project	2015-04-24	2017-02-18		\$79,369.25	City of St. Louis Mayor's Office
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Midwest Regional State Wildlife Action Plan Coordination	2016-08-01	2018-05-01		\$11,000.00	Indiana University
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Developing a Framework for Evaluating Tallgrass Prairie Reconstruction Methods and Management	2014-10-01	2016-12-30		\$54,308.00	U.S. Geological Survey Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Developing a Continental Blueprint for Targeting Landscape-Level Urban Monarch Conservation - "A Monarch's View of a City"	2015-07-27	2017-01-01		\$290,000.00	The Field Museum
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Lower Wabash Landscape Conservation Design	2015-04-20	2015-04-21		\$7,070.00	Indiana University
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Floodplain Forest Workshop Dubuque September 2015	2014-12-03	2015-12-04		\$3,541.00	USDA Forest Service
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Gulf Hypoxia Spatial Analysis - Precision Conservation Blueprint 1.5	2015-04-02	2017-01-01		\$111,374.08	The Conservation Fund

Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Toward a Comparative Understanding of Agriculture Producer's and Non-producer's Perceptions of Ecosystem Services and Gulf Hypoxia	2014-10-01	2016-09-30	\$43,767.00	University of Illinois
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Evaluating Biodiversity Impacts of Midwestern Native Prairie Grown as Feedstock for Biogas Production in a Commercial-Scale Anaerobic Digestion System	2016-07-01	2019-04-30	\$100,000.00	Iowa State University
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	A Monarch's View of Urban Landscapes: Pilot City Design Projects	2015-09-15	2017-12-30	\$100,000.00	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Quantifying Ecosystem Processes in Support of River Restoration and Nutrient Reduction Effects of Increased River Floodplain Connectivity in the Maquoketa River	2014-10-01	2016-09-30	\$19,683.00	U.S. Geological Survey Midwest Environmental Sciences Center
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers	Value-added conservation: Optimizing landscapes for ecosystem services	2014-10-01	2016-09-30	\$86,040.00	University of Minnesota
Great Basin	Walker River Paiute Tribe TEKproject	2015-01-01	2017-09-01	\$10,000.00	Walker River Paiute Tribe
Great Basin	Effects of Treatments on the Connectivity and Fragmentation of Wildlife Populations across the Great Basin	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$57,018.00	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Great Basin	Effects of Treatments on the Connectivity and Fragmentation of Wildlife Populations across the Great Basin	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$35,835.00	Northern Arizona University
Great Basin	Effects of Treatments on the Connectivity and Fragmentation of Wildlife Populations across the Great Basin	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$7,147.00	U.S. Forest Service
Great Basin	A Multi-Scale Resilience-Based Framework For Restoring and Conserving Great Basin Wet Meadows and Riparian Ecosystems	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$206,807.00	U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
Great Basin	Measuring the Regional Impacts of Pinyon and Juniper Removal on Insect, Bat, and Reptile Communities	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$199,587.00	University of Nevada - Reno
Great Basin	Wildfire, grazing and availability of water in sage steppe ecosystems	2017-09-01	2017-09-30	\$137,041.30	U.S. Geological Survey
Great Basin	Engagement of Managers and Researchers on Relations among Cheatgrass-driven Fire, Climate, and Sensitive-status Birds across the Great Basin	2015-12-01	2017-05-01	\$3,270.00	U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
Great Basin	Engagement of Managers and Researchers on Relations among Cheatgrass-driven Fire, Climate, and Sensitive-status Birds across the Great Basin	2015-12-01	2017-05-01	\$29,049.00	University of California, Davis
Great Basin	Engagement of Managers and Researchers on Relations among Cheatgrass-driven Fire, Climate, and Sensitive-status Birds across the Great Basin	2015-12-01	2017-05-01	\$3,270.00	David Dobkin, unknown affiliation
Great Basin	Engagement of Managers and Researchers on Relations among Cheatgrass-driven Fire, Climate, and Sensitive-status Birds across the Great Basin	2015-12-01	2017-05-01	\$3,270.00	Desert Research Institute
Great Basin	Engagement of Managers and Researchers on Relations among Cheatgrass-driven Fire, Climate, and Sensitive-status Birds across the Great Basin	2015-12-01	2017-05-01	\$3,270.00	College of William and Mary
Great Basin	Building Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$100,000.00	University of Washington
Great Basin	Assessment of ACK55 as a Biocontrol of Invasive Annual Grasses in Nevada	2015-10-01	2017-10-01	\$27,434.00	Great Basin Institute

Great Basin	Adding Climate Smart Principles into Habitat Conservation Planning	2014-10-01	2016-10-01	\$75,000.00	Adaptation Insight
Great Basin	Invasive Species Management Contributions to Greater Sage-grouse Conservation West-wide.	2014-10-01	2016-10-01	\$38,840.00	Montana State University
Great Basin	Using Resilience and Resistance Concepts to Develop a Strategic Approach for Managing Threats to Sagebrush Ecosystems and Greater Sage-Grouse in the Eastern Portion of the Range	2015-03-01	2017-03-01	\$50,000.00	Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Great Basin	Using Alternative Futures Modeling to produce management-relevant scenarios in the Western Great Basin	2016-09-01	2017-09-30	\$47,880.00	Geodesign Technologies
Great Basin	Strategic Planning Document for Nevada Department of Wildlife and Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative	2016-09-01	2017-12-30	\$84,529.02	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Great Basin	What Do We Know About Seed Transfer in the Great Basin? A Synthesis of Existing Knowledge and Identification of Knowledge Gaps	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$29,538.00	University of Nevada - Reno
Great Basin	What Do We Know About Seed Transfer in the Great Basin? A Synthesis of Existing Knowledge and Identification of Knowledge Gaps	2016-10-01	2018-09-30	\$86,250.00	U.S. Forest Service
Great Basin	Planning for the future of the Great Basin: Using spatially-based planning to inform climate resiliency planning and adaptation strategies	2015-10-01	2017-10-01	\$77,852.00	Geodesign Technologies
Great Basin	Cheatgrass Stand Failure in the Great Basin: Fungal Pathogens, Carbon Dynamics, and Fungistasis	2015-01-01	2017-01-01	\$13,256.00	U.S. Forest Service
Great Basin	Effects of Spring Cattle Grazing on Sage-grouse Demographic Traits	2016-11-01	2018-09-30	\$100,001.00	University of Idaho
Great Basin	Developing Usable Climate Tools for Land Managers	2015-03-01	2017-03-01	\$30,000.00	Conservation Biology Institute
Great Basin	Strategic High-resolution Wetland Mapping in Greater Sage-grouse Biologically Significant Areas of Nevada	2014-10-01	2018-10-01	\$235,000.00	Bureau of Land Management
Great Northern	Identifying conservation corridors and transboundary linkages for wolverines in the Canadian Crown of the Continent ecosystem	2014-10-01	2017-01-01	\$235,000.00	Montana State University
Great Northern	The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) Climate Change Readiness Program	2015-10-01	2018-10-01	\$22,564.00	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Great Northern	Building Large Scale Drought Resiliency in the Missouri Headwaters Basin	2015-08-01	2016-08-31	\$88,000.00	Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Great Northern	Connecting Tribal and First Nation Adaptive Management and Climate Related Activities in the Crown of the Continent	2014-10-01	2017-10-01	\$10,000.00	Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Great Northern	Facilitation Needs for GLNCC Columbia Basin Partner Forum	2014-10-01	2018-09-30	\$54,500.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Great Northern	Yakama Nation participation in landscape scale conservation collaboration within the Great Northern LCC and the Columbia Basin	2015-10-01	2018-10-01	\$20,000.00	Yakama Nation
Great Northern	Landscape Conservation Design in the High Divide. An Analysis of Future Landscape Scenarios and Their Viability	2015-08-01	2016-08-31	\$150,000.00	Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Great Northern	Evaluating management alternatives to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on whitebark pine ecosystems in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem	2015-08-01	2016-08-30	\$38,000.00	Montana State University
Great Northern	Increasing the Capacity of the GNLCC Rocky Mountain Partners Forum	2015-10-01	2018-09-30	\$30,000.00	Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Great Northern	A rapid range-wide assessment of bull trout distributions: a crowdsourced, eDNA-based approach with application to many aquatic species	2015-10-01	2018-09-30	\$150,000.00	U.S. Forest Service

Great Northern	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Climate change strategic planning	2014-10-01	2017-10-01	\$43,000.00	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Great Northern		Wolverine metapopulation monitoring and connectivity in the U.S. Rocky Mountains and North Cascades	2015-08-01	2018-09-21	\$409,500.00	Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Great Northern		Climate adaptation planning for Nez Perce fisheries	2015-10-01	2018-09-30	\$20,000.00	Nez Perce Tribe
Great Northern						Department of Fisheries Resource Management
Great Northern		Can we conserve wetlands under a changing climate? Mapping wetland hydrology across an ecoregion and developing climate adaptation recommendations	2015-08-01	2016-08-31	\$75,000.00	University of Washington
Great Northern		Towards developing an interagency stream temperature database and high-resolution stream temperature model for British Columbia with a focus on pilot watersheds in the NPLCC and GNLCC	2015-08-01	2016-06-30	\$83,000.00	Pacific Salmon Foundation
Great Northern		Towards developing an interagency stream temperature database and high-resolution stream temperature model for British Columbia with a focus on pilot watersheds in the NPLCC and GNLCC	2015-08-01	2016-06-30	\$5,000.00	U.S. Forest Service
Great Northern		Collaborative efforts to inform the science, management and policies of First Foods of the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla	2014-10-01	2015-06-30	\$25,000.00	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks		Southeast Aquatic Connectivity Assessment Project for the GCPO region	2017-04-01	2019-04-01	\$160,000.00	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks		Guiding Regional Conservation Planning under Climate Change: Integrating dynamic landscape population models with structured decision making	2015-01-01	2016-06-30	\$68,623.00	University of Missouri Columbia
Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks		Establishing Explicit Habitat Objectives to Guide Strategic Habitat Conservation for the Gulf Coast: Extension to Black Skimmer	2017-01-15	2019-01-15	\$10,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks		Ecological Assessment-Phase 2: Terrestrial - Developing a Strategic Decision Framework for Terrestrial Species Conservation	2017-01-15	2019-01-15	\$83,000.00	University of Missouri Columbia
Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks		Ecological Assessment Phase 2: Aquatic - Multi-objective Conservation Planning: Prototyping a strategic decision framework for aquatic species conservation	2017-01-02	2019-01-02	\$150,440.00	Mississippi State University
North Atlantic		Analysis of Habitat Importance for Imperiled Species in Nature's Network	2016-04-01	2017-09-01	F15AC10 52	\$17,500.00 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
North Atlantic		Prioritization and Conservation Status of Rare Plants in the North Atlantic Region	2016-01-01	2017-03-31	\$50,000.00	NatureServe
North Atlantic		River Corridor Assessment for the North Atlantic Region	2016-02-01	2018-01-31	\$99,999.00	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
North Atlantic		Habitat Associations for Northeast Species and Natural Communities in the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative	2016-04-01	2016-06-01	\$39,000.00	NatureServe
North Atlantic		Development of a Rapid Assessment Protocol for Aquatic Passability of Tidally Influenced Road-Stream Crossings	2016-02-05	2017-07-31	\$75,000.00	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
North Atlantic		Identifying Resilient Sites for Coastal Conservation	2015-01-01	2017-03-29	\$999,989.00	The Nature Conservancy
North Atlantic		Piping plover habitat suitability in a changing climate: Science aided by smartphones to understand habitat preferences and future habitat availability	2014-11-01	2018-03-31	\$485,025.00	U.S. Geological Survey
North Atlantic		Extending the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Map to Canada	2015-09-21	2017-05-31	\$110,000.00	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

North Atlantic	Analysis of Piping Plovers and other Beach Dependent Species	2014-10-01	2017-01-30	\$448,021.00	Virginia Tech
North Pacific	Climate Change in the Tongass National Forest Fostering Strategic Collaboration and Informing Sustainable Management of Priority Resources	2015-08-01	2018-03-31	\$33,000.00	U.S. Forest Service
North Pacific	Developing resilience to natural and cultural dimensions of climate change: Tribal perspectives and applications the transboundary Cascadia landscape, and assessing contribution of eDNA to monitoring priority species	2016-08-31	2018-09-30	\$18,497.00	Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
North Pacific	Southeast Alaska Climate Change Summit	2016-08-01	2017-05-01	\$33,430.00	Alaska Sea Grant
North Pacific	Developing Shared Strategies for Sea-level Rise Adaptation in Working Lands of Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Delta	2015-08-01	2018-09-28	\$24,500.00	Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California
North Pacific	Developing a Southeast Alaska community-based stream temperature monitoring network	2016-08-01	2018-09-30	\$40,410.00	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
North Pacific	Tribal Climate Change Partnership: Climate Science Connections Database	2015-06-06	2016-12-29	\$7,003.00	University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program
North Pacific	Towards developing an interagency stream temperature database and high-resolution stream temperature model for British Columbia with a focus on pilot watersheds in the NPLCC and GNLCC	2015		\$75,000.00	U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
North Pacific	PNW Coast Blueprint Connectivity	2017-09-01	2019-09-30	\$50,000.00	Conservation Biology Institute
North Pacific	Integrating Climate Change into Washington's State Wildlife Action Plan Revision	2015-03-11	2016-12-29	\$24,500.00	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Pacific	Modeling the Effects of Climate Change on Fish-bearing Streams in Western Washington	2016-10-19	2017-02-28	\$49,530.00	Point No Point Treaty Council
North Pacific	Northwest Tribal Forum	2017-09-01	2018-10-25	\$15,000.00	Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
North Pacific	Yellow-cedar decline and recovery: Climate modeling and data assimilation	2017-05-17	2018-01-01	\$24,346.00	University of Alaska Southeast
North Pacific	The Available Science Assessment Project: Evaluating Adaptation Actions for Sea Level Rise and Coastal Change	2016-07-20	2017-12-31	\$20,000.00	EcoAdapt
Pacific Islands	Beyond exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity: A response based ecological framework to assess species climate change vulnerability	2015	2015	\$60,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Pacific Islands	Estimating climate velocities for Hawaii: Determining robust patterns and landscape conservation implications	2017	2017	\$50,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Pacific Islands	Tracking Climate Change in Hawai'i: Status and Prospects	2014-10-30	2015-09-01	\$72,309.00	Point Blue, LLC.
Pacific Islands	Determining climate controls to plant growth of native and non-native species in Hawaii using precision dendrometer data	2017	2017	\$250,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Pacific Islands	Micronesia Mangrove Adaptation Initiative	2016-08-06	2017-09-30	\$120,000.00	
Pacific Islands	Climate Change Adaptation Video Series	2016-08-08	2017-09-30	\$30,000.00	Orig Media
Pacific Islands	A real-time avian malaria warning system for targeted management response	2017	2017	\$30,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Pacific Islands	HITAI Climate Synthesis	2015-09-01	2017-12-31	\$203,529.00	EcoAdapt
Pacific Islands	Coral Reef Climate Response through Collaborative Marine Spatial Planning	2017-09-01	2018-08-31	\$66,211.00	University of Hawaii

Pacific Islands	Climate Change Adaptation Analysis	2016-09-01	2017-07-31	\$50,000.00	Climate Policy Initiative
Pacific Islands	Plant-cam: Developing and deploying a real-time monitoring system for isolated and rare native plants in Hawaii	2017	2017	\$50,000.00	U.S. Geological Survey
Peninsular Florida	Marine and Estuarine Conservation Targets	2016-08-15	2019-04-30	\$170,881.57	OPS
Peninsular Florida	Statewide Impact Assessment	2014-12-01	2015-12-01	?	
Peninsular Florida	Keys Adaptation Project	2016-08-15	2019-04-30	\$960,154.00	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Peninsular Florida	Inundation modeling in Florida Counties	2014-10-01 4:00:00	#####	\$86,857.00	University of Florida
Peninsular Florida	Water farming demonstration project	2016-08-15	2017-09-30	\$10,072.00	University of Florida
Peninsular Florida	Developing a Spatial Database of Prescribed Fire in Florida	2016-08-15 4:00:00	2019-04-30	\$184,864.00	Tall Timbers Research Station
Peninsular Florida	Impact Assessment for the Florida Panther Wildlife Refuge Contextual Landscape	2014-12-01	2015-12-02	\$77,893.00	?
Peninsular Florida	Refinement of Gopher Tortoise habitat identification and related land cover data / Continuation of water restoration analyses	2014-10-01	2015-10-01	\$116,094.00	University of Florida

Plains and Prairie Potholes	Comparative Analysis of Native Prairie Spatial Delineation Methods in the Prairie Ecozone	2015-04-20	2016-03-30	\$62,000.00	Ministry of the Environment of Saskatchewan
Plains and Prairie Potholes	North Dakota Wetland and Grassland Conservation Situation Analysis Workshop	2017-08-24	2018-07-07	\$48,049.00	Kearns and West Inc.
Plains and Prairie Potholes	Developing an ecosystem services modeling framework to help guide PPP LCC planning efforts	2017-09-01	2018-12-28	\$69,504.00	Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

South Atlantic	Models of ecological uplift from conservation activities in the SALCC	2014-10-01	2016-09-30		\$149,848.00 Duke University	
South Atlantic	Version 2.0 Data Viewer for the South Atlantic	2015-07-21	2016-07-31		\$16,442.00 Conservation Biology Institute	
South Atlantic	Maintenance for Conservation Planning Atlas	2015-07-21	2018-09-30		\$100,000.00 Conservation Biology Institute	
South Atlantic	Improving the decision science foundation of the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint	2015-10-01	2018-09-30	4500082969	\$112,566.00 U.S. Geological Survey	

South Atlantic	Development of a South Atlantic ecosystem model	2015-09-01	2018-02-28	F15AC01141	\$46,999.00	NC State University
South Atlantic	Development of a South Atlantic ecosystem model	2015-09-01	2018-02-28	F16AC01141	\$18,000.00	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
South Atlantic	Development of a South Atlantic ecosystem model	2015-09-01	2018-02-28	F16AC00147	\$50,000.00	Ocean Integrity Research

South Atlantic	Development of a South Atlantic ecosystem model	2015-09-01	2018-02-28	F10AC00444	\$38,000.00	University of Florida
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South Atlantic	Integration of at-risk and range restricted species models and strategic conservation information into the SALCC Conservation Blueprint	2015-04-01	2017-09-30	F14AC01292	\$149,977.00	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
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South Atlantic	Identifying science delivery needs of cooperative members	2016-09-01	2017-08-31	F16AC00990	\$197,113.00	North Carolina State Univerisity
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Pacific
Islands

Abstract

The Rio Grande/Río Bravo is the lifeline of the region, including the Chihuahuan Desert, supplying drinking water for more than 6 million people, including numerous Native American tribes, and irrigating about 2 million acres of land. The river also forms about 1250 miles of the international border between the United States and Mexico from El Paso/Ciudad Juárez to the Gulf of Mexico. The Rio Grande/Río Bravo and its tributaries are increasingly stressed by growing water demands, invasive species, and alterations that impact its flow and water quality. These stressors are likely to be exacerbated by extreme droughts and floods.

The South Central Climate Science Center (SC CSC) has funded projects to synthesize the state of science in the Rio Grande Basin and work with stakeholders to understand how people value the river. Outreach is currently being conducted to identify collaborative and creative initiatives underway in the Basin that can help conserve water and riverine ecosystems while supporting human needs. The South Central Climate Science Center (SC CSC) has partnered with the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Coca-Cola, the Rio Grande Joint Venture and Tecnológico de Monterrey (the Forum Organizing Committee) to help share important stories at a binational Rio Grande/Río Bravo Basin Forum. The Forum will bring together a variety of water users such as farmers, ranchers, city officials, tribal leaders, policymakers, business leaders, conservationists and scientists from both the United States and Mexico in El Paso, Texas in the spring of 2017. Outcomes of the Forum are intended to promote creative solutions to the challenges facing the Rio Grande Basin. The decline in the monarch butterfly has led to it being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Declines in managed and native bees have also been documented, leading to increased concerns about bee populations and communities, as well as the availability of pollination services for crops and native plants. Similar factors have been identified in the decline of monarchs, native bees, and other pollinators, including habitat fragmentation, loss, and degradation (including milkweed loss for monarchs), and disease/predation, as well as climate change, weather extremes, invasive species, and pesticides (e.g., Potts et al. 2015). The decline in the monarch butterfly has led to it being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Declines in managed and native bees have also been documented, leading to increased concerns about bee populations and communities, as well as the availability of pollination services for crops and native plants. Similar factors have been identified in the decline of monarchs, native bees, and other pollinators, including habitat fragmentation, loss, and degradation (including milkweed loss for monarchs), and disease/predation, as well as climate change, weather extremes, invasive species, and pesticides (e.g., Potts et al. 2015). Habitat fragmentation is considered to be a leading cause that is responsible for the long-term population declines of Northern Bobwhites. There are numerous factors responsible for habitat fragmentation such as expanding suburbanization, intensification of agricultural and forestry practices, and invasions of exotic plants; the unifying theme is how people use land for settlement and the production of food and fiber. As part of the National Grassland Research and Promotion Act, the Texas A&M University System is conducting a project to assess the status of grasslands in Central Texas. Sampling Grassland habitats in Urban, Suburban and Rural areas of Central Texas using a modified GMIT protocol and Data Recorder Protocol provided a baseline of operations and tested various techniques and equipment prior to large-scale implementation. This 6-month effort combined the Urban Monarch project with testing field data collections techniques with those used by several partners (TPWD protocol) interested in determining best practices, tools and methodologies for evaluating and monitoring habitat for monarchs, other pollinators and grassland birds. Tablet data recorders were far superior than other recorders tested. The Red River Stakeholder Engagement project’s primary objective was to uncover areas of concern for stakeholders who live, work, and play along the Red River Basin. It examined the complexity of the cultural landscape and the challenges facing the basin. Habitat fragmentation and degradation are considered to be a leading causes of long-term population declines of Northern Bobwhites and many other species of grassland birds, such as Eastern Meadowlark. Research is needed to understand the factors causing habitat loss and fragmentation and to identify the areas that are high-probability candidates for successful restoration so that optimal decisions can be made. The RESTORE Act (33 U.S. Code § 1321) directs 80% of Clean Water Act penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (likely to be in the billions) to Gulf of Mexico restoration. Gulf partners profess a common goal of “restoring and protecting the natural resources...and economy of the Gulf Coast region”(Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council 2013:2), yet specific and explicit objectives that quantify what it means to actually achieve this goal remain undefined. Despite the presence of numerous conservation partnerships along the Gulf of Mexico, there is concern that this unprecedented opportunity will lack a coordinated effort. The Gulf Coast Prairies LCC has initiated efforts to improve biological planning and landscape conservation design with a focus on implementing State Wildlife Plans (SWAPs) for the benefit of focal species and pollinators. To facilitate landscape conservation planning, the GCP LCC has supported land cover data projects as well as refining a platform for grassland planning, inventory and monitoring (G-MIT). These data are being used to assess the status of grasslands in the Gulf Coast Prairies LCC. The southeast United States’ rivers and streams support the most diverse unionid (freshwater mussel) fauna on earth. These species are a focus of the GCP LCC because their sensitivity to habitat degradation, fish community changes, and changes in water quality and quantity make them akin to the proverbial ‘canary in the coal mine.’ They are essential components of riverine ecosystems, influencing nutrient cycling and sediment transport. Habitat loss and degradation due to urban expansion and other human activities have raised concerns for the Western Gulf Coast Mottled Duck population. This species relies on tidal, palustrine, and agricultural wetlands as well as grasslands for all of its life cycle needs. The disappearance of suitable nesting and brood-rearing habitat is believed to be the primary factor associated with long-term population decline of the Alligator Gar, *Atractosteus spatula*, is an iconic species native to lowland floodplain river systems where they play an important role as top predators and by linking landscapes through their movement. Alligator Gar is also an important native fisheries species in the Trinity River. Disruption of river-floodplain connectivity is implicated in declining populations of Alligator Gar across much of its range. Successful management and restoration of the Trinity River floodplain will require a coordinated effort. This project will be conducted in 6 phases:

Phase 1: Formulation - Compile a list of all interested stakeholders; work with Foundations of Success facilitators to provide background information, project goals, expectations and deliverables in preparation for Phase 2. A decline in habitat quality and quantity in the southern Great Plains is a driving factor in population declines of endemic grassland birds, insects, and native plants. Native grassland species face habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as habitat degradation from pesticide use, invasive species, woody encroachment, disease, and climate change. Few baseline datasets exist to compare long term change over time from both local and landscape (ecoregion) levels. These datasets could then be used in conjunction with conservation decisions by local entities as well as training datasets for future modeling efforts.

Oyster reefs are one of the most important environmental and economic resources within the coastal regions of the United States. Although oyster reefs in deeper water have been mapped, the extent and condition of intertidal reefs has not been sufficiently inventoried in most states. Understanding the geographic extent and condition of intertidal oyster reef and shell bottoms is important for assessing parental stock and to

This project will conduct a vulnerability assessment, develop climate-smart adaptation strategies and actions, and generate implementation plans for focal habitats of the South and Central Coast regions of the CALCC, with a specific focus on four Southern California National Forests (Angeles, San Bernardino, Cleveland, Los Padres). Specific project goals include:(1) Assess the regional vulnerabilities and resiliencies of California's Central Valley supports over 20 endemic, special-status species associated with vernal pools and seasonal wetlands, yet loss of 90% of the original extent of these habitats has resulted in highly-fragmented, remnant pools of varying habitat quality. Managers need science support to inform conservation priorities and possible enhancement of remaining pools, particularly since projected increases in A century of fire exclusion across many forest types in the western U.S. has resulted in unforeseen changes, including high fuel accumulations, high densities of trees, and increasing dominance of fire-intolerant species. These changes are particularly acute in forests that historically experienced high frequency and low severity fires. In response, the NPS Pacific-West region supports a large prescribed fire program to The North-central California coast and ocean is a globally significant, extraordinarily diverse and productive marine and coastal ecosystem that is home to abundant wildlife, valuable fisheries, two national marine sanctuaries, two national parks, and a national wildlife refuge. It is a treasured resource of the San Francisco Bay Area's seven million residents that rely on this unique marine ecosystem for their livelihoods and This project will build on a nascent Landscape Connectivity Network facilitated by Pepperwood and comprised of land trusts, parks and open space districts, with state and federal land managers. In partnership with The goal of this project is two-fold: 1) to increase the understanding of how meadow restoration impacts hydrology and 2) to inform management and investment decisions around using restoration as a tool to build resilience under climate change. Objectives in support of this goal include: - Complete data collection and analysis and publish peer-reviewed research article on the results of groundwater and surface water The Mediterranean climate region of southern and coastal California is a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot, in addition its natural landscapes provide a suite of ecosystem services including water provision to the high density urban populations and agricultural lands in close proximity. The provisioning of water is also critical to sustained ecological function, including habitat for endangered species like the southern California steelhead. Given the importance of water provisioning and other ecosystem services, there is surprisingly little known regarding their vulnerability to future climates and increasing fire in southern California. This is particularly concerning given the predicted impacts of climate change and altered fire regimes in southern California (Shaw et al., 2009, Keeley and Fotheringham, 2003). It is essential for natural resource The CA LCC assisted the San Francisco Bay Area National Wildlife Refuge Complex in its conservation planning efforts by researching and summarizing projections of climate change and potential impacts for the While meadows cover less than one percent of the Sierra Nevada, these ecosystems are of high ecological importance given their role in carbon and nitrogen storage, mediation of surface water flows, groundwater recharge, sediment filtration, and as refugia for numerous species. Understanding how – and where – to conserve and restore meadow ecosystems is a critical management question facing US Forest Service Native Nations face unique challenges related to climate change, many of which are detailed in recent reports as part of the U.S. National Climate Assessment (Bennett et al. 2014; Hiza Redsteer et al. 2013). Native Grasslands are among the most threatened ecosystems on the planet (Hoekstra et al 2004). Recently, the bird conservation and grasslands communities have united around a forward looking approach to conservation planning. To accomplish this the following information is needed: 1) The location, quantity, and quality of desert grasslands, 2) the regional risks associated with loss or degradation of grasslands, 3) the In June 2015, the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) granted \$80,000 to the City of St. Louis (City) to promote urban monarch conservation by expanding activities associated with Milkweeds for Monarchs: The St. Louis Butterfly Project (M4M). Generally speaking, the USFWS grant was to: (1) enhance urban education and outreach efforts, and (2) conduct research on urban monarch habitat. The project spent \$51,583.57 on activities for ed and \$27,785.68 for research. The City's Office of the Mayor used a portion of the funds to contract a part time individual to act as a Monarch Community Liaison, and used the majority of the grant funds to partner with several local entities with expertise to lead the research and education tasks associated The Upper Midwest and Great Lakes (UMGL) and the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers (ETP) Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are convening State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators in the Midwest states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin to work across state boundaries to conserve species of greatest conservation need and their habitats. The partnership members have agreed to focus on three conservation priorities that are common among their State Wildlife Action Plans: freshwater mussels, pollinators, and large grassland complexes with their associated species of greatest conservation need. Work under this partnership addresses implementation of these priorities as key components of each state's Wildlife Action Plan.

The best hope for recovering and maintaining ecosystem function and services for the tallgrass prairie ecosystem is reconstruction. To that end, tallgrass prairie reconstruction efforts are on-going across federal, state, and non-profit organizations and among private landowners throughout the upper Midwest. Despite this heightened activity, a framework for comprehensive evaluation and adaptive learning from past reconstruction efforts is lacking. With an increasing percentage of already limited natural resource budgets being applied to reconstruction activities, it is imperative that we make the best use of these funds by developing best practices for reconstructions. The growing number of completed reconstructions provides an opportunity to evaluate different techniques and determine which best achieve management objectives. Monarch butterfly and other pollinators are in trouble. Monarch butterfly habitat—including milkweed host plants and nectar food sources—has declined drastically throughout most of the United States. Observed overwinter population levels have also exhibited a long-term downward trend, suggesting a strong relationship between habitat loss and monarch population declines. Preliminary research results from a U.S. Geological Survey led effort indicate that we need a comprehensive conservation strategy that includes all land types in order to stabilize monarch populations at levels necessary to adequately minimize extinction risk—urban areas will likely play a critical role. This strategy reflects an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, one that includes ecological and social dimensions specific to an urban landscape. In particular, it The US FWS Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge is associated with a Lower Wabash River LCD team exploring voluntary conservation on public and private lands in a region with fairly cohesive ecology, issues and practices in mixed habitat types of uplands, wetlands and floodplain forest in the mainstem and headwaters along the Lower Wabash River in two states: south of Terre Haute, IN; the Eel River & Lower White River below the confluence with the Wabash River in Indiana; and the Little Wabash and Fox Rivers below Highway 50 in Illinois. The project focuses on management of floodplains and headwater areas that have direct effects on these bottomland habitats. Initial objectives include: wildlife conservation; nutrient stewardship; adaptation to future changes; and maintaining working lands.

The Floodplain Forest Workshop that was held in Dubuque on September 15-17, 2015. The agenda included presentations and discussions regarding floodplain forest issues ranging from system level influences to floodplain forest threats to site level management. The program included a field trip and several breakout sessions including landscape level considerations, factors to consider when writing management prescriptions, identifying specific research needs, and discussing how to best collaborate and communicate moving forward. Products of the workshop included: detailed discussion notes; summary and map of the field trip; list of contacts; and a summary of what has happened since the workshop concluded.

The multi-LCC Mississippi River Basin/Gulf Hypoxia Initiative is a joint effort to find the nexus of water quality, wildlife, and people in the Mississippi River Basin. Integrating hundreds of data layers into a coherent spatial analysis tool, the Precision Conservation Blueprint v1.0 will provide a significant targeting and planning tool for individuals and organizations across the basin to identify opportunity areas for the implementation of specific conservation practices that have maximum multiple benefits for wildlife, water quality (gulf hypoxia), and people and agricultural productivity. Practice Fact Sheets identify a dozen or more high impact conservation actions that have potential for multi-sector benefits depending on design and position in the landscape. Precision Conservation Blueprint v1.5 includes updated data layers, such as the 2016

The Midwestern Region is dominated by intensive agricultural production, primarily corn and soybeans. Economic pressures result in optimizing acreage planted and may place pressure on producers to resign not enroll in conservation programs. At issue is the balance between ecosystem services provided by acres in conservation programs and those in agricultural production. Intensive agricultural production (e.g., high levels of fertilizers) in this region are major contributors to Gulf hypoxia (i.e., reduced levels of ecosystem services) in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Researchers in the Human Dimensions Research Program at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), through a grant provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IL DNR), are undertaking a study of agriculture producers' perceptions of ecosystem services, support The goal of the project is to determine biodiversity impacts of land restoration associated with clean and renewable energy development; specifically, natural gas production through anaerobic digestion of hog manure and native plant material, as being forwarded by Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE) and Smithfield Foods. RAE has the stated goal of scaling up to restore 30 million acres across the Midwestern U.S., but quantitative data in support of their claims of beneficial impacts on biodiversity are currently lacking. This research seeks to fill this gap. This specific project will be conducted on Smithfield Food's Ruckman Farm located near Albany, Missouri. Ruckman Farm is now covered in exotic cool-season grasses, but 220 ac of the farm will be converted to diverse, native plant cover in 2017. Funding provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife The Monarch's View of a City project will lay the groundwork for design principles to guide the development, testing and deployment of future urban conservation for the Monarch butterfly across the Eastern half of the country. This strategy will need to reflect an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, one that includes ecological and social dimensions specific to an urban landscape. Pilot design projects at various scales in at least two cities will advance the state of science for developing landscape conservation design (LCD) guidelines for monarch butterfly conservation in urban areas as described below. While the ETPBR LCC, working through US Fish & Wildlife Service staff, will select cities and manage pilot design projects in conjunction with a contract with the Chicago Wilderness and the Field Museum of Chicago, the US FWS worked Ecosystem services provided by floodplains include removal of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments, and sequestration of carbon. Effectiveness of floodplains in providing these services is dependent on the extent and location of connection between floodplain and river. Tributary loading of sediments, nitrogen and phosphorus to the Upper Mississippi River contribute to the development of river and coastal eutrophication as well as hypoxic conditions in the Gulf of Mexico. Recent research has shown that management of river connectivity of channels to floodplains is an effective mitigation strategy to remove nutrients, sediment, and carbon from river flows. The confluence of the Maquoketa and Mississippi Rivers is a unique site because: 1) the Maquoketa River carries some of the highest documented sediment and nutrient loads in the Upper Despite growing interest in ecosystem services and multi-functional landscapes, there are still relatively few examples of projects that assess the delivery of multiple goods and services and evaluate how multi-objective conservation strategies can improve outcomes relative to single-objective or species-centric approaches (Boody et al. 2005). Quantifying the impact of conservation on the delivery of multiple ecosystem services and habitat values requires specialized expertise and extensive data collection. Even with robust biophysical and habitat models, relating these models to impacts on individuals and communities is challenging and requires interdisciplinary approaches. In addition to modeling and data hurdles, there are implementation barriers, incentive mismatches, and conflicting policies that hinder efficient management of The goals for the project are: 1) Develop a Walker River Vision document which will include Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) of the traditional plants, wildlife, fish and water located on the reservation and This project will evaluate the effects of vegetation treatments on population connectivity, genetic diversity and gene flow of wildlife species across the full extent of the Great Basin LCC. The recently approved BLM and Forest Service Land Use Plan Amendments will implement millions of acres of treatments in support of greater sage-grouse conservation. It is essential to evaluate the potential benefits and risks of these This project will evaluate the effects of vegetation treatments on population connectivity, genetic diversity and gene flow of wildlife species across the full extent of the Great Basin LCC. 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The factors affecting wet meadow and riparian ecosystem resilience to both natural and human-caused disturbances at the scale of the watershed and meadow or riparian ecosystem. 2) The distributions and population abundances of at risk species to determine focal areas for management. Decision matrices will be developed based on the characteristics of watersheds, wet meadows Monitor the diversity and abundance of winged insects (including Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera, and Hemiptera), which include many key insect pollinators, using an array of passive and active trapping methods. Monitor bat diversity and relative densities using passive acoustic monitoring stations (we will use full-spectrum passive recording units). Monitor diversity and abundance of reptiles (lizards and Removal of livestock grazing is a common prescription to promote ecosystem recovery after wildfire (and subsequent emergency site rehabilitation efforts). Ecosystem recovery is typically considered from a terrestrial perspective, but wildfire and grazing can strongly influence aquatic ecosystems as well, especially smaller and fragmented stream networks, which are prevalent in the Great Basin (Minshall et al. 1989[1]; This effort complements a project, supported by the Joint Fire Science Program, to explore relations among cheatgrass-driven fire, climate, and sensitive-status birds across the Great Basin. With support from the NW and SW Climate Science Centers and the GB CESU, we aim to engage managers at local, state, and regional levels, and to involve both field-level and director-level personnel, during all stages of the proposed project. Our methods of engagement are intended to save managers time and decrease some of the uncertainty in planning and decision-making rather than to create additional pressures on managers time. 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We will This project will address limited tribal capacity for vulnerability assessment by providing guidance and data tailored to the needs and capacities of Northwest and Great Basin tribes. Specifically, the project will: 1) Make the vulnerability assessment process more accessible to tribal staff by providing online guidance materials targeted to tribal needs and capacities; 2) Address the demand for climate data at the scale of tribal FY2015: This project assesses the efficacy of ACK55, a naturally occurring bacterium that decreases invasive annual grasses by up to 70% on test sites. Working with the USDA, USFWS and the Great Basin Institute, researchers plan to treat ten, 1-acre plots on private lands within sage-grouse Biologically Significant Areas to determine the efficacy of ACK55 in warm and dry soils. FY2016: This project assesses the

FY2014: There is increasing interest in climate change adaptation, particularly since the release of the Presidents Executive Order on Climate Preparedness in November, 2013, yet many field staff remain uncertain how to put adaptation into practice. Our goal with this project is to bridge the gap between the wealth of high-level climate adaptation guidance and the field staff who carry out specific regulatory processes, The project team surveyed land managers working on invasive weeds in the west. These surveys provided information for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife (WAFWA) Wildfire and Invasive Species Initiative Working Group. The survey results and other findings were used to inform a report titled Invasive Plant Management and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation, published last spring.

Persistent ecosystem and anthropogenic disturbances and stressors are threatening sustainability of sagebrush ecosystems in the western US, and managers and policy makers are seeking strategic, holistic approaches for species conservation and ecosystem restoration. Recent research indicates that an understanding of ecosystem resilience to disturbance and resistance to nonnative invasive species can be used to prioritize management activities across large landscapes and determine the most appropriate actions at project scales. An interagency WAFWA working group has linked this understanding with breeding habitat probabilities for Greater and Gunnison sage-grouse, and developed a habitat decision matrix for assisting land managers in best allocating resources. This approach was incorporated into the Subregional Greater Planning scenarios will allow the GBLCC to develop a scenario planning document to visualize multidimensional scenarios. By using a participatory modeling process, the scenarios produced are management-relevant and will have buy-in from all major stakeholders. This management tool is a critical component of successful scenario planning. Using this vendor will allow stakeholders to share scenarios and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is a member of the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GBLCC) steering committee. NDOW would like to strategically partner with the GBLCC and others to collaborate on data gathering, organizing, identifying geographic priorities and creating a strategic plan for habitat work. However, NDOW lacks a larger guiding document or strategic plan that demonstrates their Review the existing literature, summarizing what is known about the scale and prevalence of local adaptation in the Great Basin and review current practices for determining seed transfer zones, describing benefits and limitations of different approaches. Through these two reviews, we will identify gaps in knowledge and opportunities for addressing these gaps, and determine best-practices for the construction of high quality seed transfer guidelines in a rapid and efficient manner. We propose to bring together a wide group of partners to achieve these goals, with two working group meetings proposed for this project. Deliverables include Review the existing literature, summarizing what is known about the scale and prevalence of local adaptation in the Great Basin and review current practices for determining seed transfer zones, describing benefits and limitations of different approaches. Through these two reviews, we will identify gaps in knowledge and opportunities for addressing these gaps, and determine best-practices for the construction of high quality seed transfer guidelines in a rapid and efficient manner. We propose to bring together a wide group of partners to achieve these goals, with two working group meetings proposed for this project. Deliverables include The Great Basin Region, which covers much of Nevada, and portions of California, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah, managers are already confronting a changing climate and are beginning to make management decisions despite uncertainty in how climate change effects will manifest in the region. To support decision making, the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Integrated Science Assessment Program (RISA) funded this project to explore how two scenario planning approaches might be used effectively with existing management planning This project proposes to test the hypothesis that soil fungistasis (suppression of fungal pathogens by soil microbes in carbohydrate-limited soil) and its alleviation through natural carbohydrate augmentation (e.g., cheatgrass litter, leakage from cheatgrass roots) are the principal processes mediating patterns of cheatgrass die-off and recovery in die-off-prone areas. The project team will use laboratory, greenhouse, and field Develop and utilize both correlative and experimental approaches to evaluate effects of different intensities of spring cattle grazing on sage-grouse habitat selection, insect abundance, and sage-grouse demographic and behavioral traits. Collect data and document the effects of different levels of spring cattle grazing intensity on: 1) sage-grouse demographic traits; 2) abundance and biomass of arthropods; 3) sage-grouse nest Developing Usable Climate Tools for Land Managers

The purpose of this project is to develop a series of high resolution (1:24,000 scale) digital wetland maps and associated data to support conservation planning in Nevada.

The Canadian portion of the Crown of the Continent (CCoC) ecosystem has been identified as crucial for wolverines north of the US border to rescue or supply individuals and genes through dispersal to the highly fragmented population in the northern US Rocky Mountains. Highway 3, motorized recreation, and a growing resource extraction industry, however, increasingly fragment this critical landscape. This project will capitalize on multi-year wolverine occupancy and genetic data collected noninvasively in a >40,000 km² area encompassing the core protected areas of the central Canadian Rocky Mountains to the north; and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS) strives to maintain ecological diversity and integrity, while sustaining cultural practices, preserving and improving economic development and promoting higher education opportunities to tribal members. FY2015 and FY2016 Objectives: This project seeks to better address climate change and community stewardship through professional development opportunities for tribal members to produce better community engagement and tribal leadership in the Climate Change Working Group and national and regional climate change policy decisions. CCWG The White House Council for Environmental Quality has identified two national watersheds to pilot large-scale drought resiliency implementation. The Missouri Headwaters Basin within the GNLCC region and High Divide landscape is one of these national demonstration areas, and the GNLCC can advance its collective mission with this opportunity. By delivering science to management and building a learning network among The project will establish contact with interested parties in each tribe or first nation within the Crown of the Continent to collect information on all relevant activities and research regarding climate and adaptive management within each tribal nation. We will coordinate a meeting of all interested tribal contacts and coordinate tribal activities with other efforts in the Crown including the Crown Managers Partnership, the Crown The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GLNCC) has convened the Columbia Basin Partner Forum (CBPF) to help facilitate collaboration among conservation practitioners and partnerships that share landscape conservation challenges in an eco-geographic context. Through a loosely structured process, field-level managers, scientists, and conservation constituents will identify priority conservation The Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources is currently developing a department-wide Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). YN staff will be integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge with current science findings to better prepare their natural resource programs to address future climate conditions. Funding through this grant will facilitate sharing of key strategies between the CAP and the GNLCC Conservation Framework. FY2015 and FY2016 Objectives: During the period of this contract, the Yakama Nation will focus our efforts on three primary tasks, including but not limited to: 1. expand participation in, and contributing The Heart of the Rockies Initiative (HOTR), on behalf of its High Divide Collaborative partners, seeks support to identify and evaluate future landscape configurations that address the needs of local communities while conserving the High Divides unique landscape resources. In this landscape we emphasize wildlife connectivity between large protected core areas: Yellowstone, the Crown, and central Idaho (See attached Existing climate change science and guidance for restoring and maintaining whitebark pine forests will be evaluated using landscape simulation modeling to inform implementation of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) Whitebark Pine (WBP) subcommittees WBP Strategy. We will design a no constraints management scenario based on the GYCC WBP Strategy and 2015 publication Restoring whitebark pine ecosystems in the face of climate change and incorporating the latest projections of future climate suitability for WBP and other landscape stressors (mountain pine beetles, competing species, Increased network capacity is a priority identified by the GNLCC and the RMPF Leadership Team to build on the organizational structure of LCC Partner Forums. Partner Forum organizations are intentionally inclusive collections of key decision-makers and stake-holders in the region who facilitate the flow of information and ideas, the delineation of shared priorities, and the advancement of projects leading to mutually The bull trout is an ESA-listed species that relies on cold stream environments across the Northwest and is expected to decline with climate change. Resource managers are charged with maintaining bull trout across their range, but monitoring this species is difficult and many populations have rarely or never been sampled. To reduce this uncertainty (and regulatory gridlock), we propose to coordinate a crowd-sourced field assessment of the distribution of bull trout in the U.S. by using inexpensive, reliable environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. Samples collected by this multi-partner effort can be used to evaluate many other

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) will identify and implement the goals and objectives outlined in CSKT Climate Change Strategic Plan. This funding is part of a larger pool of resources to sustain and enhance the cultural, community, and conservation goals and values of the GNLCC. Through this effort the CSKT, its partners, and stakeholders will increase our understanding of regional and global climate. This project is intended to advance wolverine conservation across the Rocky Mountains and North Cascades in the contiguous United States. It will include maintaining landscape connectivity among occupied wolverine habitats, assessing the feasibility to assist wolverine distribution expansion with translocation, developing and implementing a collaborative multi-state monitoring plan to assess distribution and genetic Native fish of the Columbia River Basin, and the ecosystems that support them, are an innate and critical part of Nez Perce culture. The persistence of these fisheries may be at risk due to climate change, especially in combination with other stressors (e.g., habitat fragmentation and disconnectivity). Assessing vulnerability of these fisheries to climate change, considering options for action, and taking action will require strategic collaboration and coordination with multiple partners. Here, we propose to start building those partnerships to address this landscape-level conservation concern. The overarching philosophy of Nez Perce fisheries As the impacts of climate change amplify, understanding the consequences for wetland dynamics will be critical for their sustainable management and conservation, particularly in arid regions such as the CP ecoregion. However, the data to model climate impacts to wetland ecosystems has been hampered by the lack of accurate maps showing their spatial distribution and data on their historical hydrological dynamics. Though these data may exist for particular wetlands, there are no wall-to-wall consistent datasets of wetland location and long-term hydrological dynamics. Climate change has emphasized the growing need to plan Stream temperature data will be compiled from federal and provincial government agencies, as well as other data holders in British Columbia which will be housed in an interagency database. Spatial statistical models for river networks like those used for NorWeST will be used with these data to develop a consistent set of high-resolution predictions for all streams and reaches within streams for a pilot area within the Cascadia ecotypic area of the GNLCC (i.e., middle Fraser River and Okanagan River basins). The pilot area work would entail development of technical protocols so that future efforts could be scaled broadly across BC and the northern half of the GNLCC to ultimately provide a consistent set of international stream temperature scenarios for planning and vulnerability assessments for aquatic species FY2015and FY2016 Stream temperature data will be compiled from federal and provincial government agencies, as well as other data holders in British Columbia which will be housed in an interagency database. Spatial statistical models for river networks like those used for NorWeST will be used with these data to develop a consistent set of high-resolution predictions for all streams and reaches within streams for a pilot area within the Cascadia ecotypic area of the GNLCC (i.e., middle Fraser River and Okanagan River basins). The pilot area work would entail development of technical protocols so that future efforts could be scaled broadly across BC and the northern half of the GNLCC to ultimately provide a consistent set of international stream temperature scenarios for planning and vulnerability assessments for aquatic species FY2015and FY2016 The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) has been working collaboratively with the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service (USFS) to inventory and map current and potential distributions of plant communities which support species of cultural concern on federal lands. This project will continue this collaborative effort to develop plant community information and GIS datasets about three The GCPO LCC region contains some of the most diverse aquatic biota in the world. The streams and rivers on which this biota depends are valuable conservation and economic resources. However, fragmentation of streams and rivers by dams and other barriers is a primary threat to the health of resident and anadromous fish species in southern rivers. Conservation planning in the region requires an assessment of the degree of fragmentation of streams and rivers and potential impacts on fish populations. However, the ability to conduct a connectivity assessment is limited in the GCPO LCC region due to the lack of a This project integrates dynamic landscape population viability models and structured decision making to choose among conservation scenarios that best meet desired endpoints for focal wildlife species in the Ozark Highlands region under climate change.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) and Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) are representative of sustainable habitat across many of the Biological Planning Units identified by various parties in the Gulf Coast region. This project provide the capacity to develop a spatially explicit Bayesian network (BN) models to aid partners in deriving habitat objectives for these species plus many beach and bare ground-nesting species under different Gulf Coast conservation scenarios in response to sea-level rise. These models will then be translated into habitat objectives for varying scenarios. Pilot an approach that integrates dynamic landscape population viability models and structured decision making to choose among conservation scenarios that best meet desired endpoints for focal wildlife species. Our combined approach will Identify 3-4 species for each inland terrestrial habitat system listed in the Integrated Science Agenda (15-20 total). Using the combined approach, we will identify potential conservation strategy alternaties intended to meet desired endpoints for focal wildlife species in the Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks region under land use change. Scenarios will likely be habitat based, but could include other Long-term, large-scale (i.e. landscape) conservation struggles with big questions such as how can a single strategy be identified when there are multiple possible future outcomes? How do we decide which management action or portfolio of actions is the best for all species when different species will likely have conflicting responses to each action? Successful natural resource decision making processes also incorporate an assessment of baseline conditions; current and future stressors; a set of potential management actions; and formal linkages between conditions, actions and biological responses (i.e. a model). It also Contributing to a core component of the Nature's Network, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy conducted an analysis on species-habitat associations data to develop a measure of overall species importance, summarized across all species, for each habitat class in the Northeast. This project extended the Habitat Associations project, in which the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative partnered with The North Atlantic Region of the United States and Canada boasts diverse habitats, from coasts to mountains, that support endemic and rare plant species. However, recent conservation actions and prioritization efforts in this region have neglected to include plants. We have conducted a conservation assessment for vascular plants that occur in the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Using the best An urgent need exists to uniformly assess river corridors, including floodplains, and to prioritize areas for protection across the North Atlantic landscape. These are daunting tasks since there are no well-defined methods to delineate and assess scores of diverse river corridors in this region. The RiverSmart research group at UMass Amherst has made meaningful strides toward a uniform assessment of North Atlantic river As part of the larger Nature's Network project, the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative contracted Natureserve to conduct a spatial analysis to tabulate species occurrence data with co-occurring habitat classes, following the updated Northeast Habitat Classification with additional aquatic classifications. The derived dataset was used by the NALCC to calculate the multi-species importance of habitat classes for Species of Greatest Conservation Need and other groups of Northeast wildlife. The mapping of important habitat classes and opportunities to conserve them was incorporated in the Nature's Network With support from the North Atlantic LCC and Hurricane Sandy Disaster Mitigation funds the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (www.streamcontinuity.org) has developed a regional crossing assessment protocol and database, scoring systems for aquatic organism passage, and hydraulic risk of failure assessments based on future storm discharge levels. The existing NAACC protocol was developed Climate change threatens to alter the ecology of coasts in the Northeastern US: it disrupts processes, enhances disturbance, rearranges or destroys habitat, and creates novel conditions for the fish and wildlife that inhabit the coastal zone. Although climate change affects the entire coastal region, some places have a higher natural resilience to change due to their physical properties (orientation, elevation, geology, topography, This multi-faceted project aims to assess nesting habitat for the Federally-listed piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and other beach-dwelling species on Atlantic coastal beaches and to forecast future habitat under accelerating sea level rise. This project engages a broad community of stakeholders along 1500 km of the U.S. Atlantic breeding range from North Carolina to Maine to address a shared problem in species and landscape management and increases collaboration and collective 'ownership' of the problem. The project can be divided into three parts: 1) Application development. Using agile software development approaches, The overall goal of this project is to increase the knowledge and data available to more effectively protect and manage freshwater aquatic resources in the Canadian and cross-border portions of the NA LCC. Specifically, the classification will: 1) fill a large data gap by developing and mapping an aquatic ecosystem classification in the Canadian portion of the NA LCC; 2) provide the ecological basis to identify

This study aids in developing a synergistic ecological-coastal resiliency framework for a significant portion of the coastal habitat on Fire Island. It is envisioned that the study will provide key information on beach restoration, management and conservation actions for other beach dependent species, in addition to the federally-listed piping plover, along the entire south shore barrier island system chain. The three major goals The Tongass National Forest has identified resources that are important to stakeholders and vulnerable to climate-related stressors. Cooperators will review an action plan and convene a workshop to be held in Southeast Alaska in 2016. The workshop will foster collaboration between scientists, managers, and stakeholders. Workshop goals include: sharing information about climate-related stressors and effects on NPLCC Priority Resources in the Tongass National Forest; developing strategic priorities for improving understanding, reducing risks, and increasing adaptive capacity and resilience; coordinating support for increasing Building on currently available resources and on the prior climate adaptation experiences of our team, which includes tribal staff and a cultural anthropologist who is also an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, we will co-develop a guidebook for tribal adaptation. This guidebook will bring a tribal focus to adaptation planning and building resilience, in the context of existing tribal priorities, and will include traditional and local knowledge as well as western scientific resources and tools. Under the direction of an advisory group, the guidebook will be road-tested with several tribes, two of which have already been identified, and then revised at least once before being released.

The State of Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the United States combined and extends from the high Arctic to the temperate rainforests and marine waters of Southeast Alaska. Climate change impacts are unique in the Southeast Alaska region and are longer term impacts such as heavy rains causing flooding, ocean acidification, warmer waters, snowfall variations, warm springs followed by frost affecting wild berry The Humboldt Bay-Eel River region may experience the highest rate of relative sea level rise increase along the West Coast. The Project will engage stakeholders to discuss community and science needs for planning and implementing adaptation measures to sea level rise. The Project is a critical step in developing an ecosystem based-management (EBM) approach to guide the protection, management, enhancement, adaptation, restoration, and possible redistribution of Humboldt Bay-Eel River Delta habitats under future climate scenarios. This process will be informed by the best-available science, the needs of Humboldt Bay- This project, with funding support by the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative and partners, will address the need to better understand the impact that climate change will have on our salmon subsistence resources in southeast Alaska. Working with federal and state agencies, as well as community-based organizations and tribal governments, this project will 1) build a network that supports local The University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program (UO ENVS) is proposing to work with the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative in support of the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project, which is aimed at building an understanding of the impacts that climate change may have on American Indian and Alaska Native tribal culture and sovereignty. This agreement will focus on supporting the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project and developing resources that foster partnerships, knowledge exchange and outreach opportunities between tribes, climate scientists and other climate change Stream temperature data will be acquired from federal and provincial government agencies, as well as other data holders in British Columbia to eventually be housed in an interagency database. Spatial statistical models for river networks like those used for NorWeST will be used with existing and readily available stream temperature data to develop a consistent set of high-resolution predictions for all streams and reaches within two pilot areas: an interior location represented by the Nicola River watershed in the Great Northern LCC and a coastal location represented by the Somass River watershed within the North Pacific LCC. Work in these proposed pilot areas would include processing of spatial data and applying existing technical protocols for stream temperature modelling to facilitate future expansion of the approach across the GNLCC and The Lower Columbia River and adjacent coastal regions of Oregon and Washington contain a rich diversity of natural and cultural resources managed by a complex array of tribal sovereign nations, federal/state/local agencies, non-government conservation organizations, landowners, stakeholders and others. But our region lacks a current, comprehensive, landscape-scale blueprint that can be used to drive and align WDFW will use funds provided by the NPLCC to integrate climate change impacts and implications into our State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Revision. We will secure appropriate expertise to review existing research and tools, including products prepared as part of the Pacific Northwest Vulnerability Assessment, and extract and apply information that is relevant to specific components of our SWAP. Our intent is to The Jamestown SKIallam and Port Gamble SKIallam tribes, and many other tribes in the Pacific Northwest, rely on ESA listed fish species for subsistence as well as cultural and economic practices. Concern has grown over the impacts climate change might have throughout the 21st Century on traditional fishing areas. We will employ well validated hydrological numerical modeling methodologies to project streamflow changes The forum will have two major goals: . First, to share the successes and learnings of past LCC investments on the subjects of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, subsistence resources, and climate adaptation plans. Second, to identify gaps and future needs as this information becomes useful to inform land and water use planning across the region including the Great Northern LCC and the Great Basin LCC and ATNI. Yellow-cedar (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) is an economically and culturally important tree of the North Pacific coastal rainforest, ranging from northern California through Southeast Alaska. The species has been in decline for many decades, particularly in the northern portion of its range (Southeast Alaska and coastal British Columbia), and is currently under consideration for listing as Threatened or Endangered. Previous work Practitioners struggle with how to identify, prioritize, and implement climate adaptation actions that can effectively reduce vulnerability; these decisions may be more easily made and successfully implemented if they are informed by scientific evidence. EcoAdapt, the Institute for Natural Resources, and the Northwest Climate Science Center have partnered on the Available Science Assessment Project (ASAP) to synthesize and As the impacts of global climate change on species are increasingly evident, there is a clear need to adapt conservation efforts worldwide. Species vulnerability assessments (VAs) are increasingly used to summarize all relevant information to determine a species' potential vulnerability to climate change and are frequently the first step in informing climate adaptation efforts. VAs commonly integrate multiple sources of information by utilizing a framework that distinguishes factors relevant to species exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. However, this framework was originally developed for human systems, and its use to Background: Climate velocity is a concept derived from the intersection between ecology and climate change. It attempts to summarize the rate of climate change on a spatial scale as a movement rate (usually in units of kilometer per year) that a species would need to maintain to remain in its current climatological niche in the face of climate change. We now have downscaled climate models for the main Hawaiian Islands. In Conduct an objective assessment of the existing programs monitoring climate-sensitive ecological variables (biological and geophysical) in the terrestrial Hawaiian environment, generate a summary for consideration at an expert workshop, participate in the workshop, and summarize the consensus recommendations reached at the workshop.

Recent studies show that past and ongoing environmental changes have been substantial and have likely already affected conservation efforts in Hawaii. Much of the state has experienced substantial drying, including decreases in mean annual precipitation since the 1920s, longer rainless periods, and decreasing stream flow. Temperatures have been increasing in the state for the last 40 years, especially at higher Develop an island-wide mangrove adaption and management plan that will incorporate the findings from the comprehensive island-wide mangrove vulnerability assessment that is currently being funded through awards to MCT from the United States DOI Office of Insular Affairs and Fish and Wildlife Service. The goal of the Pohnpei Mangrove Management Planning project is to build local capacity to increase coastal and PICCC Climate Change Adaptation Video Series will be a series of video created in close coordination with the PICCC profiling case studies of climate change adaptation as conducted by conservationists in Hawai'i. The videos are necessary in order to help educate, inform, and inspire the general public, peers, and potential conservation managers. The goals and objectives of the videos are to be engaging, exciting, and candid. Besides coral, Hawaiian forest birds are arguably one of the clearest examples of species vulnerable to climate change. A wealth of studies has recently detailed how both ongoing and projected warming allows for avian malaria to spread at higher elevation areas where most remaining native bird species persist. Temperature is a critical factor for the development of both the disease (*Plasmodium relictum*) and its vector (*Culex* Climate change is the most pressing societal challenge of our time, with projected changes likely to result in cascading impacts to species, ecosystems, and ecosystem services. These impacts will exacerbate current resource challenges for the Hawaiian Islands such as conflict over water resources, land use and degradation, and invasive species. Resource managers and conservation planners are addressing this The objective of this project is to identify areas where herbivore management interventions would be the most effective in promoting coral reef recovery and resiliency following the recent coral bleaching. When a bleaching event occurs, as Hawaii experienced in 2014 and 2015, the results can be regime shifts or reef decline. Decline can be permanent or temporary, depending on its resilience. There is an urgent need to

Develop a thorough analysis of the current policies, mandates, institutional relationships and practices that affect decisions and actions by conservation entities in Hawai'i regarding climate change adaptation, and recommendations for potential improvements.

In conservation, one challenge of climate change adaptation is that acting on projected long-term climatic threats requires two 'leaps' by managers: 1) Acting on climate-based information which rarely is considered by managers; and 2) Acting on projected impacts that have not yet materialized. A broader challenge to Hawaiian plant conservation is the disconnect between the public and the wao akua where efforts to preserve This project will conduct a synthesis of marine spatial data. An OPS staff will be hired to work with marine/coastal experts – to develop a Technical Advisory Group and gather data and input on the processes used in the marine assessment. Additionally, this project will identify key inland (terrestrial and freshwater) areas that currently have or may have in the future direct and indirect impacts on the health of the marine The PFLCC has recently completed a set of comprehensive conservation planning scenarios for the state of Florida. This represents the first statewide effort to assess likely alternative futures for conservation considering an array of financial, biological, climatological and urbanistic conditions. These spatially explicit and temporal scenarios simulate both urban growth and climate change and identify the most suitable Climate change has become a serious threat across the U.S. and nowhere in the U.S. is this more evident than in the potential impacts to the species inhabiting the low-lying Florida Keys. Over 30 threatened, endangered, candidate and at-risk species occur in the Florida Keys. Developing and implementing adaptation strategies is a critical part of planning for the survival of these unique species. A systematic and Modeling with HAZUS for three counties to be selected by Steve Traxler and Paul Zwick including base storm surge and storm surge with sea level rise a variety of maps for storm planning. The counties selected were, Bay, Brevard, and Hillsborough. The work was done in conjunction with Storm Protection analysis. HAZUS modeling was further done for St. Lucie County, and Franklin to Hernando counties. Innovative Conservation incentives beyond easements and fee simple purchase are needed for conservation in Florida. In east central Florida, citrus farm owners and agencies have developed a method of storing additional water on shallow citrus groves called water farming. This water storage will help remove harmful point source discharges to the Indian River Lagoon. In support of the development and implementation of This project is designed to develop a spatial database to track prescribed burns conducted in Florida. The contract recipient will build a spatial database of no less than 10 years of previous prescribed fires (2006-2016), identified by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) burn permit database. The spatial database will be built upon existing spatial fire databases, particularly the Department of Defense (DoD) burn database

This project utilizes projected visualization of land cover conditions for the state of Florida at three future time periods. Simulated projected future conditions also vary by patterns in development, levels and types of conservation, and sea level rise. These visualized scenarios afford the opportunity to examine a range of possible outcomes for land use and land cover, and use these scenarios to evaluate the impacts on potential habitat distributions for focal species. For this project, focal species were centered within the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and impacts. The methodology for this project includes four major steps, which have been found to be effective in previous scenario analyses with state LCC partners. The first is a thorough update of climate and urbanization models used in the scenarios. The second is the presentation of a workshop based stakeholder contribution opportunity to determine a subset of focal species believed to be most at risk in this area of the state. The third is a spatiotemporal impact assessment based on spatial buffering and overlay of scenario-predicted land use or land cover changes due to urbanization and climate change. The fourth is a review of potential habitat impacts as modeled through the alternative scenarios, and the contrast of impacts to each species based on the different scenario assessment outcomes.

Refinement of Gopher Tortoise Habitat Identification and Related Land Cover Data. The benefits of this project include: 1) much improved gopher tortoise remote habitat identification that could have a strong influence on potential listing status (with the likelihood that significantly more habitat may be identified); 2) better statewide land cover data regarding scrubby flatwoods and potentially refined mesic flatwoods and dry prairie classifications; and 3) potential spin off benefits regarding better habitat identification for related species such as gopher frogs and other xeric adapted species that might be found in on drier flatwoods and dry prairie sites. Continuation of Water Restoration Analyses. Considerable water restoration analyses have been conducted and are underway as part of earlier iterations of CLIP. The goal of this work is to build on earlier work, continuing to build a multi-faceted database of water restoration priorities. For this next phase, the goal would be to conduct a landscape analysis to look for opportunities to plan for water and wildlife habitat conservation together. I.e., assess and identify potential land areas where new surface water storage projects can complement wildlife habitat conservation planning. Land areas can be private agricultural lands or public holdings that would benefit from hydrological restoration, as part of a larger watershed conservation/restoration scheme.

Native grasslands have been reduced to a fraction of their original extent, with estimated total loss prior to the 1990s of 70% for prairie grassland (Federal Provincial and Territorial Governments of Canada 2010). Conversion of native grassland to cropland and tame hayfields or pasture has been one of the leading drivers of native grassland loss in North America. Degradation of native grasslands also continues in some areas due to changes in natural disturbance regimes such as fire suppression and intensive prolonged cattle grazing, threats from invasive non-native species, fragmentation, intensification of agriculture, and economic development associated with population growth(Federal Provincial and Territorial Governments of Canada 2010). With increasing pressure and stressors on remnant native grassland, land managers and land use decision makers need to be able to provide clear guidance on locations of priority landscapes (i.e., remnant native grassland) and allow opportunities for industry to conduct coarse-level, pre-development planning that can identify native grasslands as sensitive habitat. Furthermore, grassland-associated species, many of which are species of conservation concern, prefer to settle in native grasslands compared to tame grasslands (Davis et al. 2013). Identification of important habitat for these species requires reliable information on the types of grassland over the landscape (Davis et al. 2013). In order to accomplish this objective, it is imperative that remnant native grassland be identified and mapped. However, the spatial location of these remaining patches have yet to be accurately identified, as it has proven difficult to distinguish between parcels of land that are native grass-dominated and those dominated by tame grasses. An effective and efficient process to differentiate native prairie from surrounding land covers will be fundamental for grassland conservation in the Northern Great Plains region. Other studies have attempted to distinguish native and tame grassland using a variety of methods. The most relevant study (McInnes et al. 2015) compared the classification accuracy of air-photo interpretation to a time-series analysis of MODIS Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). McInnes et al. (2015) examined the NDVI time-series because of potential differences in rates of green-up between the two landcover types. McInnes et al. (2015) concluded that the time-series approach performed better than a single-date approach and the aerial-photo interpretation approach. Our objective was to test three methods for distinguishing parcels of land dominated by native grasses from those dominated by tame grasses. The first method involved air-photo interpretation using high resolution color infrared digital stereo models. The second method used a time-series of vegetation indices (NDVI, EVI, SAVI, and MSAVI) derived from Landsat. The third method attempted classification of different grassland types using a high-resolution LiDAR product

Representatives from the PPP LCC, PPJV, federal, state and NGO conservation organizations will convene in Bismarck, North Dakota to systematically and explicitly define the grassland and wetland conservation situation/context, including direct and indirect threats to grasslands and wetlands, as well as current and potential actions, including conservation easements, that can be taken to reduce threats. Additionally, participants will consider how the grassland and wetland conservation easements fit within the Service's broader efforts to achieve social impact (e.g., increased public engagement in conservation and support for the USFWS mission). Through the process of conducting a situation analysis, and developing a conceptual model based on the analysis, workshop participants will identify assumptions and hypotheses about how actions will help achieve the conservation easement program's goals and objectives in North Dakota. Information gained from this workshop will be useful for use in other states in addition to North Dakota.

The Plains and Prairie Potholes LCC is currently developing a strategic plan that will help guide its partners toward making more informed conservation decisions across the Northern Great Plains. As part of that effort, the PPP-LCC aims to provide syntheses for its partners that will help them understand the effects of conservation decisions and policies across different resources and sectors of the economy. One way to view these impacts is in terms of ecosystem services. That is, the set of services that humans derive from ecosystems such as flood control, agricultural productivity or wildlife populations. The PPP-LCC aims to use the ecosystems services framework to synthesize current information about grasslands, wetlands and agricultural systems in its geography. Using this information, they plan to develop scenarios to assess the implications of a changing landscape on these services. With these assessments, the PPP-LCC will then work with their partners to develop plans to communicate with the public about how conservation policies affect diverse interests across the landscape. The hope is that communicating about services that are of interest to the public will help state and federal agencies implement policies that are more publically palatable. Likewise, this framework will serve as tool for assessing where more scientific information is needed and serve as an integrating tool when new information has been developed. Currently, the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center is developing a modeling framework for assessing ecosystem service across the Prairie Pothole Region. This project aims to leverage ongoing work, expand the number of services currently being assessed and expand the model to cover the entire PPP-LCC geography. The expected product will be a prototype modeling framework that the PPP-LCC can continue to develop and use to assist their partners

We propose to support the revision and implementation of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative's Conservation Blueprint by integrating its Ecosystem Indicators into a structured decision support system that makes explicit how the Indicators are interrelated and how these will respond to management and policy interventions aimed at improving the conservation status of the South Atlantic region. Our specific objectives are to (1) develop ecological production functions that predict the ecological impacts of selected conservation actions relative to current conditions, and to propagate these impacts through other affected systems or functions; (2) codify protocols for updating and curating geospatial datasets of the Indicators and datasets needed to estimate these over time in response to natural events and human activities; and (3) design a structured framework for updating the Blueprint to incorporate these changes and to facilitate formal exploration of conservation priorities implied by the Indicators. Our approach has the key features of a structured decision support system: path models, which are heuristic models that trace the effects of management actions (or other interventions) on ecosystems structure and function to generate changes in the Indicators; production functions that capture these impacts empirically (e.g., via regression); and a weighting scheme that makes explicit the co-benefits or trade-offs implicit in management alternatives, and which thus provides a vehicle for using the Blueprint to set priorities for on-the-ground conservation actions. We will implement this approach for terrestrial systems and marine systems separately, integrating these in coastal/estuarine systems. Our project will apply to the entire South Atlantic LCC, excluding the marine systems of the Gulf of Mexico. Our approach will augment the scientific underpinnings of the Blueprint while also helping to ensure that it becomes a living document that guides actual conservation planning and is updated into the future.

Create a Version 2.0 Simple Viewer for the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint that includes updates, additional data (category priorities, actions, justifications, ownership, and partner data), and dynamic charting of indicators and presentation of ecosystem and analysis unit aggregate indicator scores. Continue to refine and improve the South Atlantic Conservation Planning Atlas (salcc.databasin.org). Provide technical guidance and recommendations about how to structure data and future Viewer platforms to achieve specific functions for future versions of the Blueprint hosted within an interactive viewer and the South Atlantic Conservation Planning Atlas.

1 year of maintenance (Oct 1, 2014 – Sept 30, 2015) of Maintenance For 4 CPAs in the SE (SE Region CPA, South Atlantic LCC CPA, Penninsular Florida CPA, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks CPA). 3 years of maintenance (Oct 1, 2015 – Sept 30, 2018) of Maintenance For 2 CPAs in the SE (SE Region CPA and the South Atlantic LCC CPA). Maintain the functionality of the South Atlantic LCC Conservation Planning Atlas and Southeast Region Conservation Planning Atlas developed using the Data Basin platform. These linked Conservation Planning Atlases (CPAs) allow administrators and users of these southeastern CPA gateways to consolidate spatial information for public outreach and internal use, and include private and public group workspaces, dynamic web-mapping capabilities, access to analytical tools (listed on <http://databasin.org/services/services>), data download capacity, linkages to datasets available on external web mapping services (e.g., USGS Science Base), and administration of content. Maintain, and allow for further customization, of these CPAs. Customizable features include management of spatial content for a particular organization, branding (e.g., logos, taglines), additional upload capacity, access to premium analytical tools, custom content pages (such as “About the South Atlantic LCC Conservation Planning Atlas” page), custom color palettes, among other features. Provide support for CBI personnel to maintain and improve upon connectivity of existing southeastern CPAs, and further efforts toward integration of USGS Science Base with the DataBasin platform to meet the needs of the South Atlantic LCC and Southeast Region. Provide user support and training to LCC staff for use and administration of the gateways within Data Basin including tutorial materials, email and phone support, and assistance identifying additional needs for CPA demonstrations/training sessions. Note: the primary objective of CPA maintenance is to maintain existing functionality and provide minor fixes as needed. This does not cover non-trivial new feature development.

FWS and USGS will collaborate to improve the decision science foundation of the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint. The Blueprint prioritizes areas for shared conservation action in the South Atlantic geography. Priorities in Blueprint 2.0 are driven by natural and cultural resource indicator models and a connectivity analysis. The Conservation Blueprint is a living spatial plan for sustaining natural and cultural resources in the face of future change. More than 400 people from over 100 organizations have actively participated so far in developing the Blueprint.

This proposal outlines a collaborative regional effort to build a South Atlantic Ecosystem Model that will facilitate the connection of inland and coastal marine management strategies and actions to potential resource and economic impacts in estuarine and coastal marine environments, with the following two goals: 1. Improve and Expand the Functionality of the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Blueprint: The SALCC Blueprint is unique in its ability to connect across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine systems. Unfortunately, the availability of and quality of current models connecting impacts across those ecosystems are a major barrier for modeling efforts and Blueprint Users. Improving these models is a high priority for Blueprint 2.0 workshop participants, Coastal and Marine Blueprint Users, the Indicator Revision Teams, and the Conservation Design Team. 2. Identify and Sustain Benefits for Blueprint Users: Inland to Marine - Improve the ability to reliably quantify how SALCC and SAFMC conservation actions contribute to the productivity and sustainability of estuarine and coastal marine ecosystems. Estuarine and Coastal Marine: Improve the ability to quantify how Coastal and Inland actions impact Estuarine and Marine systems. We anticipate that these efforts will enhance the ability to incorporate this information into management and policy (SAFMC) enhancing conservation of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and the sustainability of economically and ecologically important fisheries and fish populations that advances the synergies between the SALCC Blueprint 2.0 and SAFMC Fishery Ecosystem Plan II. To that end, we propose a pilot project for conceptual and practical development of a marine ecosystem model for the area managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which encompasses the SALCC's regional coastline, inland areas, conservation management areas.

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Goals: The Project Partners will work to improve the connection between restricted range and at-risk species conservation and the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint. In addition, Project Partners envision a Blueprint long term goal for the SALCC, for conservation practitioners and for the public who stand to benefit from the guidance offered by the Blueprint. This project will lead to tangible, ready-to-use products, based on current field-based biodiversity and habitat data. These products will be enhanced and maintained over the long term by Natural Heritage Network member programs. Use of these products in LCC initiatives and this partnership itself, will set examples within and beyond the south Atlantic, for how inventory and monitoring, and modeling and analysis can inform one another cyclically, to assure adaptive conservation and management of species habitats at a landscape scale. Moreover, as discussed later, this project partnership can exemplify opportunities for collaboration throughout the LCC and Natural Heritage networks, and thus providing a Partnership Blueprint to build upon. Objectives: The Project Partners recognize the well thought-out short term objectives offered by the SALCC for this work. Rather than seek only to develop interesting and practical SDM map outputs, these objectives seek to integrate supporting data and information regarding conservation and management needs of these species as well, so that deliverables provide richer inputs to the Conservation Blueprint. Project Partners will collaborate with the staff of the SALCC and other Regional Partners to: Develop a list of restricted range and at-risk species of interest to partners within the South Atlantic LCC. Condense this list to a set of priority species for which habitat models and monitoring programs are desirable and feasible. Compile information on the occurrences of these priority species and model their habitats throughout the South Atlantic LCC. Compile information on stressors or limiting factors for these species (current and future). Identify population and/or habitat objectives for these species if these do not currently exist. Develop a set of conservation actions to address limiting factors and achieve population/habitat objectives to be incorporated into the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint. Identify specific performance measures for each identified conservation action. Identify or develop a set of standard monitoring protocols for priority species and their habitats within the SALCC. Identify resource and coordination needs for achieving monitoring objectives across the ecoregion. Ensure that information related to priority species/habitats in the SALCC is easily accessible and in the right form for use by individuals involved in rare and at-risk species conservation decisions.” Tasks to accomplish these objectives include: species and habitat data gathering and preparation; compilation of supporting conservation and management information for those species; use of species and habitat data for SDM development; synthesis of model outputs with supporting species information; and development of products that can be integrated into the Conservation Blueprint.

This project is intended to support the South Atlantic LCC in the roles of extension and research by working with cooperative members. Specifically, the project includes: Assisting the GIS Coordinator maintain the Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA) by: responding to questions about the CPA; locating and sharing data on the CPA and organizing metadata through the solicitation of partners and cooperative members; and reviewing data from project leaders and updating and creating metadata as needed. Providing outreach support to cooperative members by: providing GIS-based application-specific analyses using the Blueprint; capturing feedback concerning Blueprint uses and case studies; participating in education and outreach events and opportunities including trainings, presentations, conferences, and invited talks. Analyzing existing and elicit additional feedback from cooperative members concerning the effectiveness and constraints of online science delivery applications to support conservation actions as well as work with South Atlantic LCC staff and software developers to improve those applications based on that feedback. Developing research to identify personas (hierarchal archetypes) among cooperative members and report findings to South Atlantic LCC staff.

This project includes the following tasks: Update the viewer to add the following components from future Blueprint versions and data products: a) Update Blueprint priority layer with future versions, and b) Update indicator charting at level of individual indicators and ecosystems. Develop pixel-level filtering feature: a) Build a user interface to allow users to filter the Blueprint by indicator value, and b) Set up appropriate computing resources, including cloud-hosted virtual machine and software installation. Scope and develop mobile responsive design: a) Investigate and develop strategy to incorporate mobile capability into the Simple Viewer, and b) Build compatible mobile responsive interface. Investigate and scope out potential additional functionality to include within the Simple Viewer (e.g. including a report feature, selecting multiple analysis units). Provide limited support to add and improve features to the Simple Viewer and the Conservation Planning Atlas as prioritized by SALCC staff.

Project 1. Coordinated monitoring of fire impacts throughout the South Atlantic: Funding from Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes is supporting prescribed fire on land managed by a diversity of public and private organizations, many of which have established protocols for monitoring fire effects. Some only monitor vegetation, while others monitor additional impacts on species and ecological processes. Our team proposes to work with key partners to integrate data from existing monitoring and improve the coordination of future fire monitoring in the South Atlantic. Efforts will build off of existing cross-organizational efforts to coordinate fire impacts monitoring in pine ecosystems with a special emphasis on rapid, efficient data collection and methods that can be utilized by a wide range of partners. In particular, this effort will require close coordination with existing monitoring programs run by USFWS, NPS, TNC, state heritage and wildlife programs, and other important partners. 1) Assess current major monitoring programs in the South Atlantic LCC footprint that conduct fire effects monitoring and summarize each program based on the types of data collected and program goals.2) Compare existing monitoring programs to current rapid assessment condition metric protocols for open pine to determine opportunities for merging efforts into a single protocol (for data collection purposes).3) Collect data using draft protocol, with a focus on filling geographic and conceptual gaps in our knowledge (at least two different locations within the South Atlantic LCC). 4) Develop process for using existing wildlife and vegetation data to quantify extent to which draft metrics scores match up with rapid assessment condition metrics as well as South Atlantic indicator predictions from the Conservation Blueprint and suggest changes to metrics, weighting schemes, and indicator predictions based on results.5) Issue final report that summarizes suggested protocols for fire effects monitoring and develop and release accompanying ECO OBS database that partners can use to enter data and calculate condition scores for their study areas. Lead Organization: NatureServeKey Collaborators: USFWS, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Jones Center, North Carolina TNC, US Forest Service Project 2. Improved tracking of the spatial extent of prescribed fire: Despite improvements by many organizations in tracking the spatial extent of prescribed fire, many prescribed fires in the South Atlantic are only depicted as a single point. Furthermore, land management agencies differ in the types of data and names of data fields for data collected, thereby making it more difficult to combine data into a single database. Integrated digitized polygons for the region, not just points and acreage by land manager, are critical for predicting ecological impacts over specific areas and understanding how each area interacts with other adjacent areas (that may or may not be under similar ownership). Our team proposes to assist in consolidating spatial extent information on prescribed fire throughout the South Atlantic LCC footprint (with a particular emphasis on open pine habitat) and increasing the number of prescribed fire treatments available as digitized polygons. 1) Identify existing databases that might serve to house data across all of the South Atlantic LCC and work within each state to determine main data holders of spatial data on prescribed burns and collect data model for each database.2) Determine strategy for consolidating multiple types of prescribed fire spatial data into one database including crosswalks between central data model and individual key data holders. Examine and address concerns of key stakeholders regarding uses and misuses of global database.3) Develop final database or customize existing database identified from task 1.4) Develop plan/proposal for seamless way for partners to share and upload data in future years and find sources of funding to support this (phase II) to make it easier to update in the future (web portal?) Lead Organization: NatureServeKey Collaborators: Florida Natural Areas

FWS Region	USGS Center	Project Title	FWS Project Officer	USGS PI	2015 Funding	2016 Funding	2017 Funding	2018 Funding (anticipated)
1	CRU CO	Albatross Demographic Study as a Tool in Support of the Surrogate Species Approach to Strategic Migratory Birds Habitat Conservation	Roberta Swift	William Kendall	25,000	25,000	25,000	-
1	LSC	An evaluation of the acute and chronic toxicity of potash, a proposed potassium based molluscicide, on salmonid fishes and their forage base	Robyn Draheim	Christine Densmore	-	57,715	-	-
1	PIERC	Assessment of Non-native Predatory Mammal Abundance and a Mammal-associated Pathogen at the Kūlani-Keauhou 'Alalā Release Site	Jay Nelson	Steve Hess	-	-	25,000	25,000
1	CRU ID	Cause of low nesting success and recruitment of Clark's and Western Grebes in Idaho	Ty Matthews	Courtney Conway	-	-	35,946	35,314
1	WERC	Changes in Aquatic Prey Resources in Response to Estuary Restoration in Willapa Bay, Washington	Jackie Ferrier	John Takekawa	33,387	45,762	-	-
1	LSC	Conservation Genetics and Genomics of the Narrowly Endemic Island Marble Butterfly: Assessing Population Structure, Facilitating Supportive Breeding, and Identifying Adaptive Potential	Karen Reagan	Steve Faulkner	-	-	60,963	56,339
1	PIERC	Demographic research of forest birds at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	Steve Kendall	Eben Paxton	26,452	-	-	-
1	FORT	Determining the level of Brown Treesnake (<i>Boiga irregularis</i>) suppression needed on the Guam National Wildlife Refuge to support the recovery of listed avian species	Jennifer Cruce	Amy Yackel Adams	33,810	9,200	-	-
1	CRU OR	Developing Non-Invasive Methods to Monitor Burrow-nesting Seabird Populations	Roberta Swift	Dan Roby	24,192	26,954	-	-
1	CRU	Diet, population connectivity and adaptive differences among populations of northern Idaho ground squirrels	Greg Burak	Courtney Conway	-	22,241	-	-
1	FRESC	Effects of Barred Owl Removal on Population Demography of Northern Spotted Owls	Betsy Glenn	David Wiens	22,450	-	-	-
1	CRU ID	Effects of sylvatic plague on the federally threatened Northern Idaho ground squirrel	Greg Burak	Courtney Conway	9,249	23,106	24,256	-
1	PIERC	Efficacy of Avian Botulism Surveillance and Mitigation Using Detection Canines	Kimberly Uyehara	Michelle Reynolds	-	-	53,478	38,385
1	WFRC	Efficacy of Injectable Tulathromycin for Reduction of Vertical Transmission of <i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i> in Spring Chinook Salmon	Joy Evered	Dianne Elliott	25,000	-	-	-

1	WERC	Estuary restoration and trade offs for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds: what can bird surveys, prey biomass, and climate change models tell us?	Doug Roster	Isa Woo	34,983	-	-	-
1	NWHC	Evaluating potential causes of sea urchin die-off in Hawaii	Kevin Foster	Thierry Work	42,331	-	-	-
1	WFRC	Evaluation of eDNA-based surveys for identifying patch occupancy and spatial distributions of Pacific lamprey within Puget Sound and Washington coast watersheds	Carrie Cook-Tabor	Carl Ostberg	-	18,656	10,249	-
1	PIERC	Field trials to test new trap technologies for monitoring Culex populations and the efficacy of the biopesticides for control of larval Culex in the Alakai Plateau	Joshua Fisher	Dennis LaPointe	-	60,288	-	-
1	PIERC	Identifying and mitigating threats to endangered forest bird food webs from Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	Steve Kendall	Paul Banko	-	-	39,578	18,640
1	FRESC	Lead Exposure and Effects in Golden Eagles in the Pacific Northwest	Jeremy Buck	Collin Eagles-Smith	27,359	10,230	-	-
1	PIERC	Linking seasonal movement patterns of a ESA candidate species, the I'iwi, with resource availability at Hakalau Forest NWR	Steve Kendall	Eben Paxton	-	40,675	-	-
1	PIERC	Monitoring bird and rat behavior to improve invasive species management	Katie Swift	Paul Banko	-	44,554	26,788	-
1	FRESC	Monitoring Contaminant Exposure and Physiological Stress in Pacific Northwest Avian Scavengers: Implications for the California Condor Recovery/Reintroduction Program	Cindy Schexnider	Collin Eagles-Smith	44,256	-	-	-
1	WFRC	Passage of adult Pacific lamprey at Yakima River diversion dams	Ann Grote	Russell Perry	-	9,713	-	-
1	WFRC	Population estimates of American bullfrog and brown bullhead catfish at Conboy Lake NWR	Lisa Wilson-Romine	Jason Romine	-	19,000	37,706	-
1	WFRC	Statistical Analysis of Invasive Common Carp at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge	Linda Beck	David Hewitt	15,798	-	-	-
1	PIERC	The role of bird dispersal and grass competition in ecosystem restoration at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	Steve Kendall	Stephanie Yelenik	22,111	20,841	20,841	-
1	CERC	Toxicity of Anticoagulant Rodenticides to Hawaiian Triggerfish	Michael Fry	Don Tillitt	61,160	-	-	-
1	FRESC	Use of cheatgrass suppressive bacteria to restore shrub-steppe	Michael Gregg	David Pyke	-	16,065	16,297	16,533
1	PIERC	Using historic avian point-count data to measure success of reforestation at Hakalau Forest NWR	Steve Kendall	Eben Paxton	-	25,000	-	-

1	WERC	Using innovative technologies to assess detection probability of Columbian White-tailed Deer	Paul Myers	Isa Woo	-	-	44,986	-
1	PIERC	Vegetation change monitoring and adaptive management of non-native ungulates at the Big Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Steve Kendall	Steven Hess	25,000	-	-	-
1	FRESC	Water management and a threatened amphibian: Oregon spotted frog population biology and movement in the Upper Deschutes River basin, Oregon	Jennifer O'Reilly	Michael Adams	-	-	29,912	54,362
2		A systemic review for the AZ Hedgehog Catus in support of recovery planning	Kathy Robertson	Kathryn Thomas	-	24,236	-	-
2	PWRC	An integrated, collaborative approach to assess population size and habitat use of a USFWS species of high concern: the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Coastal Texas and Louisiana	Kelli Stone	James Lyons	-	-	41,250	31,672
2	WERC	Assessing the genetic connectivity of northern Mexican and narrow headed gartersnakes within and among watersheds in the United States using genome wide SNP data	Jeff Servoss	Amy Vandergast, Dustin Wood	48,917	48,305	-	-
2	UMESC	Assessing the probability of detecting endangered karst invertebrates in Central Texas	Cyndee Watson	Wayne Thogmartin	24,577	-	-	-
2	CRU NM	Assessing the response of lesser prairie chickens to mesquite removal and application of prescribed fire in the shinnery oak prairie ecoregion of eastern New Mexico	Clay Nichols	Scott Carleton / Colleen Caldwell	-	39,938	39,547	36,603
2	CRU TX	Changes in Avian and Plant Community Composition and Structure Following Prescribed Thinning in Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	Dan Collins	Clint Boal	-	-	-	20,569
2	CRU OK	Determining instream flows needed to support the federally-threatened Arkansas River Shiner <i>Notropis girardi</i> and associated assemblage	Daniel Fenner, Brent Bristow	Shannon K. Brewer	-	-	67,561	118,586
2	CRU NM	Determining seasonal use of conservation Reserve Program (CRP) habitat by the Lesser Prairie-Chicken in Eastern New Mexico	Clay Nichols	Scott Carleton	39,455	-	-	-
2	CRU AZ	Determining suitable and preferred habitat of Zuni bluehead sucker	Melissa Mata	Scott Bonar	44,877	22,562	-	-
2	CRU	Development of a decision tool for eagle take permit issuance based on cover types associated with overwintering golden eagles in southern Great Plains	Robert Murphy	Clint Boal	-	23,497	-	-
2	CRU TX	Development of Pecos assimineia (<i>Assimineia pecos</i>) monitoring methods and effects of habitat restoration on Pecos assimineia at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge	Bill Johnson	Tim Grabowski	38,150	-	-	-

2	CERC	Establishing baseline contaminant concentrations in avifauna inhabiting the Canyon Mine to understand the effects of uranium mining in the Grand Canyon Watershed	Brian Wooldridge	Bill Brumbaugh, Jo Hinck	11,969	-	-	-
2	NOROCK, FORT	Improving reintroduction success to speed recovery of the Chiricahua Leopard Frog	Cat Crawford	Blake Hossack, Erin Muths	-	-	43,478	42,451
2	CRU NM	Influence of stream temperature, intermittency, and nonnative fishes in the current and future distribution of fishes of conservation need in the Gila and Mimbres drainage basins	Dustin Myers	Colleen Caldwell	-	39,822	36,945	37,603
2	NOROCK, FORT	Informing recovery of the endangered Sonora tiger salamander	Cat Crawford	Blake Hossak, Erin Muths	23,435	-	-	-
2	CRU NM	Investigating impacts of energy development on Lesser Prairie-Chicken reproduction, survival, movement, and habitat use in Eastern New Mexico	Clay Nichols	Scott Carleton	37,845	-	-	-
2	PWRC	Investigating the influence of captive environment on Whooping Crane reproduction	Wendy Brown	Sarah Converse	52,070	-	-	-
2	CRU LA	Occurrence and variation in submersed aquatic vegetation along the northern Gulf of Mexico	Stephen DeMaso	Megan LaPeyre	26,900	19,400	19,400	-
2	CRU NM	Population Dynamics and reintroduction characteristics of Mexican Wolves in Arizona and New Mexico's Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA)	Sherry Barrett	James Cain	13,800	-	-	-
2	SBSC	Population trends, extinction risk, and conservation guidelines for ferruginous pygmy owls in the Sonoran Desert	Scott Richardson	Pamela Nagler	24,981	-	-	-
2	SBSC	Post-catastrophic fire assessment of narrow-headed gartersnake population status in New Mexico and Arizona	Eric Hein	Charles Drost	12,034	4,926	-	-
2	CRU AZ	Relationship between native and nonnative fish presence and the five components of the hydrograph in streams of the Mogollon Rim Emphasis Area, Arizona	Jess Newton	Scott A. Bonar	-	-	50,986	10,248
2	CRU AZ	Relationship of riparian and instream habitat with presence of native and non-native fishes in the intermediate-sized Arizona rivers	Mary Richardson	Scott Bonar	-	63,713	47,978	24,350
2	CRU TX	Structure and connectivity of mid-continental snowy plovers	Daniel Collins	Clint Boal	-	95,301	69,411	70,436
2	CERC	To develop methods for conducting effluent toxicity tests to assess potassium toxicity to freshwater mussels in the East Texas and Oklahoma Emphasis Area	Suzanne Dunn / David Martinez	Ning Wang	-	50,445	37,875	-

2	CRU TX	Understanding the role of Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge to sandhill crane overwinter habitat in context of landscape suitability due to climate change.	Bill Johnson	Clint Boal	103,469	72,682	-	-
3	GLSC	Block the migration of an invasive fish using low voltage pulsed direct current	Michael Twohey	Nicholas Johnson	-	15,528	15,489	15,489
3	UMESC	Creation of an Open Access Data Download Website for Upper Mississippi River Aquatic Vegetation Data.	Stephen Winter	Jennifer Sauer	-	8,449	-	-
3	GLSC	Determine the origin of invasive sea lampreys in the Cheboygan River, MI	Michael Twohey	Nicholas Johnson	54,824	-	-	-
3	UMESC	Determining potential isotopic and trace element otolith markers for application in identifying Asian carp spawning and rearing habitats in the Upper Mississippi River System above Lock and Dam 19	Ann Runstrom	Brent Knights	13,883	-	-	-
3	UMESC	Determining the existence of legacy effects on vegetation from large-scale water level manipulation	Stephen Winter,	Kevin Kenow	32,494	6,203	-	-
3	NPWRC	Developing a framework for evaluating tallgrass prairie reconstruction methods and management	Karen Viste-Sparkman	Diane L. Larson	35,000	-	-	-
3	CERC	Development of a Community-Level Forecasting Model for Pallid and Shovelnose Sturgeon and Associated Chub Species in the Lower Missouri River	Wyatt Doyle	Mark Wildhaber	98,900	56,000	-	-
3	CRU WI	Development of eDNA Techniques for Detection of Endangered Purple Cat's Paw Pearlymussel and Snuffbox	Darin Simpkins	Brian Sloss	35,635	-	-	-
3	UMESC	Development of eDNA Techniques to Detect the Endangered Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>) and Devil Crayfish (<i>Cambarus diogenes</i>) at a Landscape Level	Kristopher Lah	Jon Amberg	-	90,605	40,268	62,999
3	NWHC	Eagle exposure assessment for anticoagulants, lead and mercury	Maria Boroja	LeAnn White	28,529	-	-	-
3	CRU MO	Identification of summer habitat of the federally endangered Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) and three other bat species of special concern with the Ozark - Central Recovery Unit; with application for landscape distribution use	Karen Mangan	Elisabeth Webb	69,339	17,809	-	-
3	UMESC	Impacts of landscape characteristics on monarch use of habitat patches	Chris Trosen	Wayne Thogmartin	-	-	57,099	88,014
3	CRU MN	Marsh bird response to invasive cattail control using grazing, mowing, and herbicide application in the prairie pothole region	Andrew Forbes	David Andersen	46,000	-	-	-
3	CRU MO	Occupancy modeling and summer habitat selection of Northern long-eared, Indiana and other bat species of conservation concern within national wildlife refuges of Northern Missouri	Darrin Welchert	Elisabeth Webb	-	65,659	65,549	26,059

3	CRU MO	Potential for conservation lands in Middle Mississippi River floodplains to mitigate flood flows for ecosystem services	Jason Wilson	Craig Paukert	-	-	60,751	118,241
3	CRU WI	Range-wide assessment on the impacts of changing climate on the endangered, migratory Kirtland's Warbler population	Christie Deloria-Sheffield	Christine Ribic	31,675	-	-	-
3	CRU MN	Range-wide migratory connectivity for full-cycle conservation of the Golden-winged Warbler, a climate-sensitive songbird of highest conservation concern	Tom Will	David Andersen	50,000	79,849	26,461	-
3	UMESC	Remnant Hardwood Forest Mapping within the Upper Mississippi River Floodplain	Richard King	Jenny Hanson	-	-	15,893	-
3	GLSC	Spatial analysis of stable isotope data to identify foraging movement patterns, and potential for competition among Lake Michigan salmonies	Matthew S. Kornis	David Bunnell	17,777	3,574	-	-
3	GLSC	Spatial ecology of juvenile lake sturgeon (<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>) in the Detroit River	Justin Chiotti	Darryl Hondorp	-	-	34,876	12,183
3	UMESC	Transformation methods for the glochidia of the spectaclecase mussel (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>)	Doug Aloisi	Diane Waller	-	71,610	66,713	-
3	GLSC	Understanding and Enhancing Connectivity of Michigan's Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Populations to Guide Management and Conservation Efforts	Jack Dingleline	Ralph Grundel	-	-	61,264	80,049
3	UMESC	Use of genetic analysis for the identification of Asian carp reproduction in the Upper Mississippi River basin	Ann Runstrom	Brent Knights	25,200	25,200	-	-
3	CRU MO	Use of NanoTag technology to improve characterization of habitat use by maternity colonies of <i>Myotis sodalis</i> on National Wildlife Refuges in Missouri and Illinois	Shauna Marquardt	Elisabeth Webb	-	23,375	-	-
3	UMESC	Working Towards a Floodplain Model to Correlate Vegetation Patterns with Hydrological Changes on the Iowa River	Cathy Henry	Jenny Hanson	-	13,403	-	-
4	CRU MS	Abundance, Growth, Mortality, and Habitat Use of Pallid and Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Lower Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers	Paul Hartfield	Hal Schramm	55,000	49,999	-	-
4	CRU NC	Advancing the tools of freshwater mussel conservation: determining the relative sensitivity of <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> propagated juveniles	Anthony Valasco	Tom Kwak	50,372	27,884	-	-
4	CRU NC	Applying downscaled climate projections to inform decisions on strategic habitat conservation for amphibians in Puerto Rico.	Rafael Gonzalez	Jaime Collazo	22,992	4,983	-	-

4	LSC	Assessing effects of environmental quality and detection probability for imperiled stream fishes: backside dace, Cumberland arrow darter, Kentucky arrow darter, and Cumberland darter	Floyd, Mike	Nathaniel Hitt	-	-	36,396	-
4	CRU GA	Black Rail ecology to inform effective survey design and support population modeling	Smith, Adam	Clint Moore	-	-	89,244	45,880
4	SESC	Characterizing life history characteristics and developing propagation techniques for federally listed and priority petitioned freshwater mussels species in the Escambia, Yellow, and Choctawhatchee Rivers in Alabama and Florida .	Sandy Pursifull	Nathan Johnson	58,100	60,981	-	-
4	SESC	Clarifying taxonomic uncertainty for three freshwater mussels listed or considered for listing under ESA, Fuzzy Pigtoe, Oval Pigtoe, and Rayed Creekshell.	Sandy Pursifull	Nathan Johnson	35,697	-	-	-
4	CRU GA / PWRC	Conasauga River Intersex Fish – Is This A Concern for FWS Conservation Efforts?	Robin Goodloe	Cecil Jennings / Peter J. Lasier	78,500	80,000	78,600	72,100
4	CRU AL	Determination of Species-Specific Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Requirements for Non-Game Riverine Fishes	Jeffrey Powell	Elise Irwin	34,500	35,641	-	-
4	SESC	Developing detection probabilities in flowing water environments to improve environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys	Greg Moyer	Maggie Hunter	60,382	60,918	-	-
4	SESC	Evaluation of Stream Reaches for Mussel Reintroduction in the Upper Coosa Watershed, NW GA	Eric Prowell	Nathan Johnson	17,148	-	-	-
4	SESC	Hawksbill sea turtle genetics: Determining genetic relationships among Caribbean hawksbill nesting populations and origin of juveniles sampled at Buck Island	Ann Marie Lauritsen	Kristen M. Hart	25,000	-	-	-
4	WARC	Improving the use of ecological indicators using hierarchical modeling	Brandt, Laura	Hardin Waddle	-	-	24,944	-
4	CRU NC	Interactions of Human-Caused Mortality, Genetic Introgression, and Management among Wild Red Wolves: Developing Scientific Consensus	Pete Benjamin	Jaime A. Collazo	-	132,887	-	-
4	CRU AL	Linking the open pine decision support tool to bird population objectives	Holbrook, Rob	James B. Grand	-	-	55,811	44,416
4	SESC	Measurement of life history characteristics and evaluation of conservation measures for the sawgrass skipper.	Chad Anderson	Timothy A. Bargar	25,000	-	-	-
4	LSC	Monitoring and Evaluation of the Imperiled Aquatic Species Conservation Strategy for the Upper TN River Basin	Butler, Bob	David Smith	-	-	35,000	-

4	CRU VA	Occupancy and Roost Ecology of the Northern Long-eared Bat and Indiana Bat in Coastal NC and VA - Understanding Peripheral Populations of a White-nosed Syndrome Impacted Species	Matthews, Kathryn	W. Mark Ford	-	-	72,672	15,464
4	CRU NC	Recovery Action Prioritization Tool Refinement and Deployment	Jose Cruz-Burgos	Jaime Collazo	-	20,902	-	-
4	SBSC	Risk Analysis for Diamondback Terrapins on Wassaw, Blackbeard, Wolf, and Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuges.	Chuck Hayes	Jeffrey E. Lovich	25,000	-	-	-
4	WARC	Snail Kite and Apple Snail Habitat Suitability Modeling to Support Multi-Species Management for the Threatened and Endangered Species in the Florida Everglades	Miller, Lori and Gible, Rebekah	James Beerens and Stephanie Romanach	-	-	24,954	-
4	PWRC	Stream Restoration - Are We Creating Quality Aquatic Habitat or Tossing Money Down the River?	Goodloe, Robin and Prowell, Eric	Mary Freeman	-	-	27,042	90,474
5	WI Water SC	Application of Mercury Stable Isotope Analysis for Determining Source Attribution of Mercury in the Ohio River	Kathleen Patnode	David Krabbenhoft	-	50,000	-	-
5	CRU MA	Assess the attitudes and impacts to society associated with voluntary use of non-toxic ammunition for hunting programs on National Wildlife Refuges	Kelly Chadbourne	Stephen DeStefano	-	78,900	33,100	-
5	CRU ME	Assessing the influence of stocking location and salinity acclimation in the Penobscot river on smolt to adult return rates	Peter Lamothe	Joe Zydlewski	19,310	19,310	-	-
5	CRU CO	Assessment of the population status and geographic range of three Appalachian stonefly species petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act	Brian Evans	Dana Winkelman	-	34,830	33,829	-
5	PWRC	Determining the underwater hearing abilities and the efficacy of sensory deterrents on seaducks	Scott Johnston	Alicia Berlin	-	47,036	46,364	46,364
5	National Wildlife Climate Science Center	Development of an adaptive management framework for the conservation of the New England cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>) and testing population response to eastern cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>) control	Anthony Tur	Mitchell Eaton	87,938	47,852	-	-
5	CRU ME	Effects of forest management practices in the Northern Forest region on forest bird communities, with emphasis on species of regional conservation priority and concern	Randy Dettmers	Cynthia Loftin	81,164	-	-	-
5	LSC	Effects of temperature and energy use on fish passage and spawning success of American shad	Ken Sprankle	Stephen McCormick	67,619	68,107	68,718	-

5	CRU ME	Evaluation of representative bird species' Landscape Capability models developed by the Designing Sustainable Landscapes project in the 13-state, northeastern region of the United States.	Rachel Cliche	Cynthia Loftin	87,292	99,886	89,553	-
5	CRU WV	Genetic and landscape level threat assessments and status review of the Candy Darter (<i>Etheostoma osburni</i>)	Barbara Douglas	Stuart Welsh	-	-	42,873	28,229
5	Woods Hole	Guiding salt marsh restoration through sediment budgets and integrative metrics	Nancy Pau	Neil Ganju	-	-	39,293	29,501
5	PWRC	Improving and field-testing solar-powered GPS/GSM transmitter design and attachment techniques to increase effectiveness of the technology for tracking marine and coastal birds	Caleb Spiegel	Alicia Berlin	-	-	49,960	-
5	LSC	Methods to improve fishway attraction efficiency and entry rates for American shad (<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>), alewife (<i>A. pseudoharengus</i>), and blueback herring (<i>A. aestivalis</i>).	Brett Towler	Kevin Mulligan	-	-	48,102	48,093
5	LSC	Optimization of Decision Rules for Hydroelectric Operation to Reduce Eel Mortality in Hydroelectric Dams while Reducing Unnecessary Turbine Shutdown: A Proof of Concept and Case Study on the Shenandoah River System	Michael J. Millard	David Smith	55,500	-	-	-
5	CRU VA	Post-hibernation Emergence of the Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) in Virginia: Movements and Day-roost Use	Sumalee Hoskin	Mark Ford	65,698	54,312	-	-
5	CRU ME	Understanding how American shad and American eel use the Penobscot River Estuary using otolith microchemistry	Peter Lamothe	Joseph Zydlewski	-	47,536	47,536	20,413
5	CRU ME	Upstream passage of adult Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot River; assessing critical thresholds for restoration	Peter Lamothe	Joe Zydlewski	27,825	-	-	-
6	CRU SD	An assessment of direct mortality to avifauna from wind energy facilities in North Dakota and South Dakota	Christopher Swanson	Joshua Stafford	38,959	-	-	-
6	CRU	An assessment of neonicotinoid exposure on USFWS high diversity grasslands in the Prairie Pothole Region	Kyle Kelsey	Joshua Stafford	-	38,240	62,042	62,394
6	NOROCK	Assessing the efficacy of using surrogate species and developing population objectives for aquatic conservation in the Flint Hills in Kansas	Greg Watson	Robert Al-Chokhachy	-	24,906	-	-
6	SBSC	Characterizing environmental controls over sagebrush mortality to forecast long term sustainability of core sage-grouse habitat areas	Kevin Doherty	John Bradford	-	105,062	137,304	144,460

6	SBSC	Characterizing environmental controls over sagebrush mortality to forecast longtermsustainability of core sage-grouse habitat areas	Kevin Doherty	John Bradford	-	105,062	137,304	144,460
6	FORT, Central Minerals and Env Resources SC	Determining the Origin of Nonnative Fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin Using Otolith Microchemistry	Travis Francis	Craig Stricker, Mike Pribil	-	24,834	-	-
6	FORT	Developing a spatially explicit modeling framework to facilitate the development of recovery targets for each Gunnison Sage-grouse population	Creed Clayton, Gina Glenne	Cameron Aldridge, Julie Heinrichs, Sara Oyler-McCance	-	34,443	117,786	91,802
6	NPWRC	Developing Models of Dakota Skipper Occupancy for use in a survey design assessment	Cami Dixon	Max Post van der Burg	-	-	22,780	-
6	CRU MT	Enhancing Native Fisheries through the USFWS Propagation Program:Technical Assistance for the Mountain-Prairie National Fish Hatchery System	Molly Webb	Christopher Guy	61,303	49,310	-	-
6	FORT	Evaluating flea resistance to insecticides and developing an integrative approach to mitigating the effects of plague on endangered black-footed ferrets	John Hughes	Dean Biggins	-	65,639	65,639	65,639
6	NOROCK	Evaluating the effectiveness and limitations of eDNA for native and non-native char detection	Wade Fredenberg	Adam Sepulveda	53,397	54,108	-	-
6	FORT / NWHC	Field trials to determine efficacy of the oral plague vaccine for prairie dogs	Pete Gober	Dean Biggins / Tonie Rocke	57,451	-	-	-
6	FORT / NWHC	Field trials to determine efficacy of the oral plague vaccine for Utah prairie dogs	Kate Novak	Dean Biggins / Tonie Rocke	59,230	-	-	-
6	FORT	Identifying patterns of genetic divergence and units for conservation in the boreal toad species group (Anaxyrus boreas) with select DNA sequences and a genomic scan of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)	Terry Ireland	Sara Oyler-McCance	42,314	28,686	-	-
6	CRU MT	Improving Conservation Status of Arctic Grayling; Assessing and Increasing Landscape Connectivity Benefits of Denil Fishways in the Big Hole River Watershed	Kevin Kappenman	Alexander Zale	-	-	47,675	49,975
6	Crustal Geophysics Center	Influence of riparian canopy condition on instream water temperature regimes in cutthroat trout streams, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO	Pamela Sponholtz	Andrew Todd	43,847	45,145	-	-
6	NPWRC	Managing Upland Vegetation as a Mitigation Strategy for Climate Change Effects on Prairie Pothole Wetlands	Neil Shook	David Mushet	54,564	57,263	-	-
6	CRU KS	Topeka Shiner (Notropis topeka) Recovery in the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area	Mike Estey	David Haukos	-	-	19,552	-

6	FORT	Vulnerability assessment for Gunnison Sage-grouse: Integrating genetic linkages and spatial habitat models for Gunnison Sage-grouse	Patty Gelatt	Cameron Aldridge, Sara Oyler-McCance	54,647	-	-	-
7	ASC	A Collaborative Approach to Assess Migration Route and Stopover Sites, Habitat Selection, Status, and Trends of a USFWS Species of High Concern: the Buff-Breasted Sandpiper	Richard Lancot	Lee Tibbits	-	79,750	79,750	79,750
7	PIERC	A geographic risk analysis of rat spills in the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands	Kathy J. Kuletz	Steven C. Hess	53,598	21,402	-	-
7	ASC	Assessing Demographic Rates of Survival and Productivity for Black Brant from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Arctic Breeding Areas	Julian Fischer	David Ward	-	85,410	-	-
7	ASC	Cross-seasonal effects and disease as constraints on numbers of emperor geese.	Heather Renner	Joel Schmutz	26,404	92,412	92,412	6,001
7	ASC	Effects of large scale climate patterns (PDO, ENSO, AO) on calving ground location, forage availability, and calf survival of the Porcupine caribou herd.	Eric Wald	Brad Griffith	-	17,477	57,694	12,672
7	ASC	Forecasting responses by priority birds to future changes in climate across the Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative	Steven Matsuoka	Colleen Handel	30,000	40,000	5,000	-
7	ASC	Heat Stress in migrating Yukon River Chinook salmon in the Tanana watershed	Randy J. Brown	Vanessa R. von Biela	-	-	73,522	-
7	PWRC	Improved Design and Analysis of Polar Bear Population Studies	Eric Regehr,	Sarah Converse	-	63,549	90,052	19,866
7	WERC	Introduced ungulates on islands within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge: a synthesis of ecological impacts and data gaps.	Heather Renner	Mark A. Ricca	42,781	-	-	-
7	ASC	Population Ecology of Polar Bears in the Chukchi Sea in Response to Changing Sea-Ice Conditions	Eric Regehr	Karyn Rode	-	50,000	100,000	100,000
7	ASC	Walrus Population Studies	Patrick Lemons	Chad Jay	342,217	-	-	-
8	WERC	An assessment of spatial use, home range and habitat selection of golden eagles in the Mojave Desert	Susan Cooper	Kathleen Longshore	4,196	5,129	5,129	5,129
8	WERC	An Assessment of Survey Data, Nest Site Suitability, and Food Habits of Golden Eagles (<i>Aquila Chrysaetos</i>) in the Mojave Desert	Brian Novosak	Kathleen Longshore	38,182	-	-	-
8	WERC	Assessing Large-Scale Population Trends of Greater Sage-Grouse and Evaluating Relative Contributions of Multiple Environmental Drivers	Steve Abele	Peter Coates	30,990	-	-	-
8	WERC	Decision support for addressing impacts of drought, climate change, and human water need on waterbirds in the Central Valley of California	Michael Dunphy	Michael Casazza	-	-	74,593	-

8	WERC	Investigating impacts of extended drought on genomic diversity of the Coachella Valley Fringe-toad Lizard (<i>Uma inornata</i>) and decision support for genetic management	Felicia Sirchia	Amy Vandergast	-	-	95,794	-
8	FRESC	Perennial grass response to post-fire grazing management	Lou Ballard	David Pyke	272,961	-	-	-
8	CRU CO	Preliminary evaluation of Santa Ana sucker responses to waste water treatment plant effluent in the Santa Ana River	Kai Palenscar	Dana L. Winkelman	-	-	35,535	-
8	FRESC	Quantifying and forecasting the effectiveness of wetland management for increasing persistence of Great Basin populations of the Columbia spotted frog during drought	Chad Mellison	David S. Pilliod	-	-	16,885	-
8	WERC	Relationships between Conifer Expansion and Sage-Grouse Population Performance and Genetic Differentiation.	Steve Abele	Peter Coates	-	100,000	-	-
8	FRESC	SageSuccess Project: Sagebrush restoration for Greater sage-grouse habitat needs	Todd Hopkins	David Pilliod	-	261,742	-	-
8	FRESC	The effects of barred owl removal on population demography of northern spotted owls	Betsy Glenn	David Wiens	22,447	-	-	-
8	WERC	The effects of climate and drought on bi-state sage-grouse using an integrated population model	Steve Abele	Peter Coates	-	-	88,340	-
8	WERC	The Effects of Climate and Drought on Bi-State Sage-Grouse Using an Integrated Population Model.	Steve Abele	Peter Coates	-	103,000	-	-
8	FRESC	Water, grazing, and a threatened amphibian (OR spotted frogs)	Nolan Banish	Michael J. Adams	-	-	57,607	-
8	FRESC	Wildfire, grazing and availability of water in sage-steppe ecosystems	Ted Koch	Jason Dunham	103,724	-	-	-
8	FRESC	Wildfire, grazing, and availability of water in sage steppe ecosystems	Chad Mellison	Jason Dunham	-	-	76,117	-
1, 2, 6, 8	FRESC	Environmental and individual-specific correlates of long-distance movements of golden eagles in western North America (Note: Joint project with Regions 1, 2, 6, and 8; \$25,000	Brian Smith	Sharon Poessel, Todd Katzner	-	-	100,000	-
3, 4	UMESC	Metrics for planning and prioritizing bird conservation at regional scales	Tom Will	Wayne Thogmartin, Jessica Stanton	-	48,472	110,370	111,414
TOTALS					3,927,522	4,054,896	4,062,667	2,374,622

To: Elinor Renner[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov]
From: Renner, Elinor
Sent: 2018-01-03T09:54:32-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: 30 Policy Outlook
Received: 2018-01-03T09:55:26-05:00
DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 1-2-18.docx

Sharing with the team.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Magallanes, Downey** <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 12:43 AM

Subject: 30 Policy Outlook

To: Staff Secretary <staffsecretary@who.eop.gov>, CabinetAffairs@who.eop.gov, "McGinley, William J. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6) William McGinley .gov>

Cc: Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Please see Interior's report. Thanks.

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Downey Magallanes
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202 706 9199

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Elinor Renner
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-6087

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
January 2, 2018

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of January 1, 2018

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

1. **GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA:** The National Park Service (NPS) is poised to begin the process of executing a cooperative management agreement with the state of New York to convert a former landfill, not currently being used by the public, into a state park under a forty-year lease agreement. NPS would have no fiscal or operational obligations, but would exercise some authority as the underlying property owner. The site is located in Brooklyn on Jamaica Bay; it is known as the Penn & Fountain piece. This will open up an area for new recreational opportunities. The State of New York is pushing NPS to announce this at the beginning of the state budget process in January. Interior is awaiting WH feedback before making this announcement.
Timing: January 2018
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** On Thursday, Interior will announce the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Program. The DPP will be available in the reading room Friday and published in the Federal Register Monday. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed offshore leasing areas with the public, and carries out the directive from EO 13795 (America First Offshore Energy Strategy). Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.
Timing: January 4, 2018
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
3. **KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. The Alaska Federation of Natives will be in Washington DC January 22 for a meeting, and Secretary Zinke will sign the exchange during this meeting which will take place at Interior. The Alaska delegation will also be invited to participate. Further, if conducive with the schedule, Presidential participation in the event would help to highlight the critical importance to Alaska natives.
Timing: January 22, 2018
Contact: Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

4. **ACTION ON ENERGY BURDENS:** Two rules identified in Interior’s energy burdens report, pursuant to Executive Order 13783, are currently under review by OIRA. The first proposed rule would revise certain provisions of the 2016 rule entitled “Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control”. Last week, Interior published a portion of the revision relating to the productions systems safety requirements of the 2016 rule. We hope to publish the proposed rule containing the larger revision by the end of January. The second final rule is the revision to the 2016 rule entitled, the “Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation” (venting and flaring rule). This rule will not likely be finalized until March.
Timing: January 2018-March 2018
Contact: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
5. **ALASKA 1002 AREA GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL (G&G) STUDIES:** Interior is drafting a proposed rule and associated environmental assessment to allow for advanced G&G studies on the oil and gas potential of the 1002 area in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge . Existing scientific data is decades old, and new data collection will be useful to better characterize the nature of any oil and gas deposits in the region. Once the rule goes into effect, additional environmental compliance is expected with respect to particular research proposals, which should minimally disrupt surface features in the 1002 area.
Timing: January 2018
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
6. **DOI ENERGY SUMMIT:** In support of the President’s energy dominance agenda, Interior is planning a summit to broadcast all aspects of the DOI’s energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration’s energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.
Timing: February/March 2018
Contact: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy
7. **LITIGATION ON FWS ENHANCEMENT FINDINGS:** On December 22, The DC Circuit issued an opinion in *Safari Club v. Zinke*, regarding the FWS negative Endangered Species Act enhancement findings for sport-hunted elephants taken in Zimbabwe during 2014 and 2015. The opinion found that the negative findings are unlawful for failure to comply with notice and comment rule-making requirements. The Circuit Court remanded the issue back to the District Court to remand back to FWS. FWS is currently evaluating the Circuit Court's opinion.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Dan Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony

1. **REPROGRAMMING REQUEST ON REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Interior will send a reprogramming letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees asking approval for FY 18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior’s bureaus. Presently

each of the 10 bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach would have bureaus share common boundaries based on ecosystems, using watersheds as a convenient and well-recognized proxy for ecosystems. Implementing common regions should improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is preparing a comprehensive roll-out strategy to maximize the chances that this first step toward implementing the Secretary's longer term government reform plan will be well-received by Congress and stakeholders.

Timing: January 7, 2018

Contact: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

2. **UPCOMING SENR HEARING:** The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee is set to hold an oversight hearing on the benefits of title transfer and opportunities to improve the process. Other topics include what types of projects and transfers should be approved by Congress; the process for getting transfer of a projects including the level of environmental compliance that is required; and why projects are pursuing transfers (ability to finance, lower project costs, approval delays, etc). Austin Ewell (Dep. Asst. Sec., ASWS) will be the witness.

Timing: January 17, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

3. **ANTICIPATED HEARINGS OF INTEREST:** House Natural Resources Committee intends to conduct a hearing on the Secretary's reorganization proposal. The hearing is pending but is intended to provide a platform for the Department to explain the new regional boundaries and how the proposal will work once it is implemented. The Senate Energy Committee expects to hold a hearing after the OCS Draft Proposed Plan is released. No details have been proposed yet, but the Committee's intention is for members to express their support or concerns regarding the proposal.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

4. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB), Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) and Steve Gardner (OSM) were nominated last year and were sent back to the WH to be renominated. SENR has yet to determine how they will move forward with nominees. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. Ms. Sweeney was held in the Senate and does not require renomination. Tim Petty was confirmed prior to the Senate Christmas recess.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **OFFSHORE OIL RISK BASED INSPECTIONS:** On January 2, BSEE will issue a Safety Alert covering findings and recommendations from a series of performance-based and risk-based inspections, a program that BSEE has been working to implement to reduce inspection workload and costs and direct on-site activities towards facilities with the highest risk profiles.

Timing: January 2, 2018

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

2. **MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:** In the next few weeks, BLM will publish Notice of Intents (NOI) regarding management plans in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The NOIs are the first steps in contemplating new management plans in these monuments, consistent with the monument modifications enacted by the President on December 4.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

3. **SAGE GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT:** A scoping report is set to be completed and released to the public in mid-January outlining responses from the states and the public regarding potential management plan changes. In the coming weeks, the Department will determine whether to proceed with plan amendments and initiate a public process on the 68 Sage Grouse Resources Management Plans.

Timing: January 15, 2018

Contact: Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

4. **ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.

Timing: January 2018

5. **DECISION PENDING ON AN APPEAL REGARDING TRESTLES SITE:** The Trestles site is an oceanfront area owned by the US Navy and leased to the State of California as a state park, which has long been used as a surfing destination. Efforts to list the area on the national register of historic places have been denied by the Navy. An appeal of the Navy's decision is currently before the National Park Service to sustain or override the Navy's position. This decision will be made by the end of January.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

6. **CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT AND STATE WATER PROJECT:** The Bureau of Reclamation intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for analyzing potential modifications to the continued long-term operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), in a coordinated manner with California's State Water Project (SWP), for its authorized purposes, in a manner that enables Reclamation and California's Department of Water Resources to maximize water deliveries and optimize marketable power generation consistent with contractual obligations, agreements, including federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes; applicable laws; and to augment operational flexibility by addressing the status of listed species. Reclamation will continue to work with all stakeholders throughout this process. The NOI for the draft PEIS is out for public comment and comment period ends February 1, 2018.

Timing: February 2018

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

7. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSIDERING HUNTING AND FISHING CHANGES IN ALASKA:** The NPS intends to initiate a rulemaking process that will consider changes to regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska (80 FR 65325) (promulgated in October 2015 and effective on November 23, 2015). Throughout this process, the NPS will consider the purpose of Secretarial Order 3347 (“Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation”) to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The NPS will also identify ways to improve recreational hunting and fishing cooperation, consultation, and communication with State of Alaska wildlife managers. The NPS will comply with all applicable laws governing the rulemaking process, including the requirement to provide an opportunity for public comment on any proposed regulatory changes under 5 U.S.C. 553. The NPS is not accepting comments on this announcement. The public will have an opportunity to comment when a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
8. **US FISH & WILDLIFE MITIGATION POLICIES SCHEDULED FOR REVISION:** FWS is currently receiving public comment on portions of its Agency-Wide Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions on which FWS will request comment include the policies’ reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies references to the previous Administration’s mitigation directives. Based on comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policies. Outreach will include a news release and notifications to targeted stakeholders. There is a high level of interest from states, stakeholders, NGOs and the public.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
9. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout December, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
- **Cordero Rojo Mine.** OSMRE’s Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation in early January 2018. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
 - **Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification (WY):** OSMRE’s Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation on or about January 2, 2018, for the Bridger Mine. The mine employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.
- Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Other/Awareness Only

1. **INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COUNCIL:** In December, the International Wildlife Conservation Council was established, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The mission of the council is to advise the Secretary on methods to increase

public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits of U.S. citizens travelling to foreign nations to engage in hunting. Letters have been sent to 16 appointees who represent a wide array of backgrounds in wildlife/habitat conservation. The Deputy Secretary is scheduled to speak and announce the creation of the council at the Dallas Safari Club's annual meeting on January 6. The first official meeting of the newly created council is being planned for the first quarter of the year. Interior will float a scheduling proposal for a potential meeting with the President for members in conjunction with the first meeting.

Timing: January 6/Ongoing

Contact: Ben Cassidy, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs

2. **LINCOLN MEMORIAL RENNOVATIONS BEGIN WITH ROOF REPAIRS:** Work will begin this month on renovating the Lincoln Memorial. On September 19, a \$2.8 million contract for the work was awarded to local roofing contractor. Funded by the FY17 NPS appropriation, the work is expected to be completed in August 2018. The contract also includes repair of cracks in the memorial's penthouse level, caused by the 2011 earthquake. Funded in part by an \$18.5 million donation from philanthropist David Rubenstein, this is the first phase of a \$25 million dollar restoration which will include expanded public use areas.

Timing: January 2, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **ICONIC MLK SPEECH TO BE READ ALOUD BY AREA FIFTH GRADERS:** The 14th annual reading of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream Speech" will take place at the Lincoln Memorial, National Mall and Memorial Parks. Watkins Elementary in Northeast DC will host the event and the speech will be read by 100 fifth graders in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Each student will read one line on the site where King stood during the August 28, 1963 March on Washington.

Timing: January 12, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **WREATH LAYING SCHEDULED TO COMMEMORATE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S BIRTHDAY:** The MLK Memorial Foundation will hold a wreath laying ceremony in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial along the Washington, D.C. Tidal Basin. This is a permitted event coordinated by the Memorial Foundation. The National Park Service has requested a list from the foundation of DOI/NPS invitees to the event.

Timing: January 15, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

5. **HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** The Department continues to participate in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework, as well as the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Interior is the lead federal agency on the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery mission and has deployed teams to Puerto Rico and the USVI to work with the Territorial government representatives on developing recovery priorities and long term recovery strategies. The Department will participate in the first Territory/Federal Agency coordinating meeting in the USVI next week. Natural and Cultural

Resource Team assessments are ongoing working with territorial governments in the VI and PR, as well as non-profits organizations.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

6. **REBUILD OUR PARKS INITIATIVE:** Interior continues to look for opportunities to announce the Rebuild the Parks Initiative, which would create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the maintenance backlog in the parks and refuges. The Secretary has continued to discuss a path forward on the language with Director Mulvaney. Interior is currently negotiating language for the 2019 Budget and Infrastructure proposal.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

7. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior is continuing to work with OMB on language to exempt certain timber harvest activities from NEPA requirements to help prepare for wildfires. Interior submitted this language to OMB for consideration as a part of the supplemental. It was not included in the version sent to the hill however; OMB has reached out to continue to work with us on a path forward. Interior also plans to send the policy to NEC, who has not been made aware of details of the proposal.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

8. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have signed an extension lease for the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) which enables operation of the coal-fired power plant to continue through December 22, 2019. The Bureau of Reclamation has a participation interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR THE SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANT PROGRAM:** Applications are being accepted for \$5 million in matching grants to support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections through the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. Funded through offshore oil revenues, SAT was established in 1998 by executive order and was co-founded with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Key Events

January 10-11	Remarks at Internal DOI Leadership Summit in Washington, DC
January 12	Potential Martin Luther King Day event in Washington, DC
January 22	Alaska Federation of Natives event and King Cove Announcement in Washington, DC

Travel by Secretary

January 9	Secretary tentative travel to Florida
January 25	Secretary travel to Las Vegas, NV for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) Sporting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trades (SHOT) Show
February 2	Secretary travel to Las Vegas, NV for Safari Club Convention

To: Robbins, Tasha[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Thomas Irwin[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]
From: Sellars, Roslyn
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:40:06-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T14:40:57-05:00

Tasha
Paul Souza from our Pacific Southwest Office is the correct person.
Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:37 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Roslyn,
Is there any information Jason needs to know prior to the meeting?

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:30 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha

We request that the following FWS attendees join via phone.
Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson and Theresa Rabot from our Pacific Regional Office (via phone)

Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:58 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha
I am checking with our folks to see who should attend.
Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:41 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Roslyn,
Jason is scheduled to meet with the below on Thursday, January 4 at 10 am. Who from your shop should attend and do we need someone from the Pacific Region to join by phone? I think they may have spoken with someone from the Region before. Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

Tasha

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Treiser, Raya B.** <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:06 AM

Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

To: "Robbins, Tasha" <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Conway, Laura (Lori)" <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.

Best,

Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc

Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

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On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm

Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

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Tasha

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<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

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Best,

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you

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Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

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Thanks,

Tasha

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Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

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Best,

Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale
1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006 USA
+1 202 663 6002 (t)
+1 202 663 6363 (f)
raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha__Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Sellars, Roslyn[roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]
Cc: Thomas Irwin[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:42:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T14:42:12-05:00

Thanks,
I will take Robyn and Theresa off and add Paul.

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:40 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha
Paul Souza from our Pacific Southwest Office is the correct person.
Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:37 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Roslyn,
Is there any information Jason needs to know prior to the meeting?

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:30 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha

We request that the following FWS attendees join via phone.
Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson and Theresa Rabot from our Pacific Regional Office (via phone)

Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:58 PM, Sellars, Roslyn <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov> wrote:

Tasha
I am checking with our folks to see who should attend.
Roslyn

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:41 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Roslyn,
Jason is scheduled to meet with the below on Thursday, January 4 at 10 am. Who from your shop should attend and do we need someone from the Pacific Region to join by

phone? I think they may have spoken with someone from the Region before. Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

Tasha

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Treiser, Raya B.** <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:06 AM

Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

To: "Robbins, Tasha" <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Conway, Laura (Lori)" <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.

Best,

Raya

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David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

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Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

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Best,

Raya

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No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm

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If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

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Best,

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Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

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Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

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Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

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Office of the Assistant Secretary

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202-208-4416

Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Conway, Laura (Lori)[Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com]
Cc: Treiser, Raya B.[Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:44:47-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T14:44:54-05:00

Hi Laura,
Update to participants list.

Jerome Ford will be here in person and Paul Souza will call in. Robyn nor Theresa will participate.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:43 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!
Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale

Assistant to Andy Spielman,

Kayla Byers and Sarah Judkins

1225 Seventeenth St.

Suite 2600

Denver, CO 80202 USA

+1 720 274 3136 (t)

+1 720 274 3133 (f)

lori.conway@wilmerhale.com

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From: Treiser, Raya B.

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 9:07 AM

To: Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

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To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

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Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
From: Charisa Morris
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:46:12-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Sea cucumbers and urchin inquiry
Received: 2018-01-03T14:46:27-05:00
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[CITES Criteria-Res-09-24-R17.pdf](#)
[Species Assessment FORMAT.doc](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)
[LEMIS Data Shot 2250 Lines 2005-11.pdf](#)
[ATT00003.htm](#)
[to Charissa Final Brief Paper 11-1-17 to DTS.docx](#)
[ATT00004.htm](#)

Hi Aurelia I have a

I am out on sick leave today, but wanted to let you know that I had noticed there was an outstanding deliverable referenced in your Sea urchin and cucumber email. While the need may have been overtaken by events, given the decision to deregulate, I wanted you to have the attached in hand, just in case it was the outstanding deliverable. Please let me know if there's anything else we can provide, or if there's another instance of us not being clear on status of deliverables.

I hope you're having a great day!
Charisa

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gnam, Rosemarie" <rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov>
Date: January 2, 2018 at 3:08:41 PM EST
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Cc: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Cade London <cade_london@fws.gov>, Edward Grace <edward_grace@fws.gov>, Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>, Thomas Leuteritz <thomas_leuteritz@fws.gov>, Neil Gardner <neil_gardner@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Sea cucumbers and urchin inquiry

Hi Charisa:

Attached is the briefing paper and its attachments that DSA provided the DAS when we briefed the DAS. I've highlighted in yellow the information that addresses how DSA uses the information collected in OLE's LEMIS database to evaluate non-CITES-listed species. If the DAS has additional questions on how we use the information we can try to address them. As to how the information is collected

and how this information compares to information collected by other agencies, these are questions that FWS OLE can best answer. Understand Neil Gardner is Acting for Ed so I've copied him on this email.

Please let me know what more is need from IA (DSA). Thanks.

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 1:34 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Rosemarie- If there is a way you can forward what you have already delivered, I can resend that to Aurelia as a reminder of what she's already received.

Ed, do you plan to provide/explain anything at this point? If so, what, and by when?

Thanks!

Charisa

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 1:26 PM, Gnam, Rosemarie <rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Charisa:

I have been in meetings this morning and will get you a response shortly. I believe our briefing paper and briefing answered how DSA uses the information OLE collects and records in the LEMIS database. How the information is collected is OLE to explain. I am unaware of of what information other agencies collect for comparsion to FWS but I do know Maine collects harvest information but does not know how much of harvest is exported and to where and by whom - this data comes through the OLE inspection process.

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 10:38 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

+ Rosemarie, who I hear may have intel

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 9:56 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

+ Dirck, who is acting for Gloria.

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 9:51 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

From a recent email from DAS Skipwith. Check out the section I highlight below:

"From my meetings with FWS, I understand the goal of data collection is to determine population to ensure not overharvested and address illegal trafficking of sea cucumbers and sea urchins.

I've worked with both NMFS and Maine's Department of Marine Resources to

understand the information they collected and fees they assess. Also other agencies are collecting and inspecting these species. To date, FWS still has not provided the requested information on what information is collected and how it is used, as well as how this collected information is different than what is collected by other agencies."

Are any of you working on this inquiry? If so, please reply with our estimated delivery date. If not, did it fall through the cracks? If we cannot provide it, we need to explain that it is never going to be delivered, and why.

Any information you may have on the status of this inquiry will be helpful.

Thanks!
Charisa

--

Charisa Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

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Last updated:

Reviewer:

Species Assessment for CoP17 based on current CITES listing criteria (Conf. 9.24)

Species:

Proposed for:

Proposing organization(s):

Prior COPs: *Has this taxon been proposed for CITES listing previously?*

Preliminary evaluation of CITES criteria: (the overall summary of the assessment)
The primary threats to taxon are . Taxon does/does not qualify for Appendix of CITES.
The current status of taxon meets criterion(criteria) of CITES Resolution 9.24 Annex .

Does listing of this species provide conservation benefits?

PAGE 2

Background on the species or taxon: Please be brief.

Distribution

Natural history (identify those aspects that make the species more sensitive to over-harvest, such as fecundity, age of sexual maturity, habitat and/or dietary specialization, etc.)

Primary threats

Population trends

Legal protection status (national and international)

Legal and illegal trade (domestic and international)

IUCN information: *Has this taxon been evaluated by the IUCN?*

Key References:

b1fc293c-ad80-4e0d-b84a-7aac25fce3db_load6852376520360292457.doc

INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: November 2, 2017
FROM: Gloria Bell, Acting Assistant Director, International Affairs
SUBJECT: Biological Assessment of Trade Regulated Shellfish and Fishery

This document provides information on the use of data from the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) for the evaluation and assessment of the status of marine species in trade.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the CITES Scientific Authority for the United States. The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) in its consideration of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at a Conference of the Parties (CoP) uses the criteria found in CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). These biological and trade criteria provide guidance to the Parties for assessing species that are or could be included in CITES Appendix I and Appendix II. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade. Appendix II includes species that, although not necessarily now threatened with extinction, may become so unless trade in them is strictly controlled. Appendix II also includes species that must be subject to regulation in order that trade in other CITES-listed species may be brought under effective control. Such “look-alike” inclusions may be necessary in cases where officials at ports of entry or exit have difficulty distinguishing one species from other species.

In its evaluation of species using the CITES criteria, DSA bases its assessment on the best available scientific, and trade information. Biological factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, population and range fragmentation; habitat availability or quality; area of distribution; taxon-specific vulnerabilities due to life history, behavior, or other intrinsic factors, such as migration; population structure and niche requirements; threats from extrinsic factors such as the form of exploitation, introduced species, habitat degradation and destruction, and stochastic events; or decreases in recruitment. Under the CITES criteria, we also consider international trade information as part of this assessment, including trade volume, export and import data, the commodity in trade and the species’ vulnerability to trade and other scientific information to assess whether trade is a threat to the species. We also consult with the States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, scientists, other experts, and the range countries of the species to obtain information to make these assessments.

The Service’s Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) collects import and export data on wildlife imported to or exported from the United States in their Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) database. LEMIS contains data from the required wildlife declarations made at wildlife ports of import and export. The Service is the only agency that collects detailed species information at the national level on both imports and exports of wildlife, including wildlife parts and products and items used as food (except for certain seafood products imported or exported for human or animal consumption which are exempt from the wildlife declaration process under a shellfish and fishery product exemption). No other agency collects

detailed species data upon import or export. Customs tariff codes are not specific to species. For example, sea cucumbers are lumped in a broad category all together and it is impossible to determine from these codes which species are in trade.

DISCUSSION

It is the responsibility of DSA to evaluate species under the CITES criteria when needed, e.g., to evaluate or develop a CITES listing proposal. Evaluation of species impacted by international trade under the CITES criteria (Resolution Conf. 9.24) involves assessing how trade affects a species. Under the criteria, 'affected by trade' means that either a species is known to be in trade and the trade has or may have a detrimental impact on the status of the species, or a species is suspected to be in trade or there is demonstrable potential international demand for the species that may be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. We, therefore, need reliable and robust trade data to undertake such an assessment. LEMIS is the ultimate source of wildlife trade data for species imported into and exported from the United States.

LEMIS data inform us on several types of assessments for marine species including:

- 1) The Monitoring of Trade When we monitor trade we can use these data as a proxy for the evaluation of consumer demand and trends in use of wildlife products. Large increases in the export of species can be indicative that species previously not utilized are now in trade and this could be a conservation concern if not utilized sustainably.
- 2) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - Species proposals to amend the Appendices. Such amendments to proposals may concern the addition of species to Appendix I or II, the transfer of species from one Appendix to another or the removal of species from Appendices.

The LEMIS data have provided detailed trade information for the evaluation of marine species that are being considered for inclusion in the CITES Appendices. For example, in preparation for the Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES, DSA evaluated American eel, several species of North American sea cucumbers, and the chambered Nautilus family for possible inclusion in CITES Appendix II according to the guidelines in the CITES Criteria (Conf. Resolution 9.24 [Rev. CoP17]). LEMIS data collected by OLE were used to inform the trade analyses of these species and evaluate the threat and magnitude of trade impacts on these species. Without the availability of this trade data for these marine species, DSA would not have been able to do an assessment of trade and our decision making on whether the United States submits or supports/opposes a proposal for inclusion of a species in CITES Appendix II would be hindered. In addition, the LEMIS trade data provide export information to the States' wildlife and fishery agencies that regulate the harvest of these marine species. For example, there has been an increased demand for sea cucumbers for export to the Asian market; we provided information on U.S. exports of native sea cucumber species to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that was useful to them in setting daily harvest limits for sea cucumbers in their waters. Lastly, we use LEMIS data in monitoring trade and its impact on native marine species. For example, American eel glass elvers are exported to Asia to be grown

in aquaculture and since they are exported live, this export is non-exempt as seafood and declared as wildlife. The LEMIS data on exports of this species have provided information on the increase in the trade of this species and on the major importing countries and trade routes. Eel species are the subject of recent CoP17 Decisions that include an evaluation of the trade in all species of eels. Having the detailed LEMIS trade information for the American eel enables the United States to provide robust data for this CITES evaluation.

- 3) The Endangered Species Act (ESA) - Adding or removing Endangered/ Threatened species from the ESA. Section 4 of the ESA requires species to be listed as endangered or threatened solely on the basis of their biological status and threats [including trade] to their existence. When evaluating a species for listing, the FWS considers five factors: 1) damage to, or destruction of, a species' habitat; 2) overutilization of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; 3) disease or predation; 4) inadequacy of existing protection; and 5) other natural or manmade factors that affect the continued existence of the species. LEMIS data can provide information for the evaluation of the utilization of a species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CITES Conf. Resolution 9.24
- Sample LEMIS Data
- DSA Species Assessment Template

Paper prepared by Rosemarie Gnam, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority.

LEMIS Declarations Standard Report

'All Imports and Exports of Allonautilus sp. and Nautilus sp. from January 1, 2005, through December 16, 2011'.

Sort: Control Number

Control Number	Genus	Species	Subspecies	Generic Name	Specific Name	Wildlife Desc	Qty	Unit	Ctry Org	Ctry IE	Pur p	Src	Act	Dp Cd	Disp Date	Ship Date	E	Pt Cd	U.S.Importer/Exporter
2005498490	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	24	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/7/2005	1/2/2005	I	LA	ZODAX
2005498357	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SPR	212	NO	AU	HK	T	W	C	C	1/10/2005	1/6/2005	I	SE	GLOBAL NICHE
2005500210	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SPR	10	NO	TH	TH	P	W	C	C	1/11/2005	1/1/2005	I	NY	NINA GRISCOM
2005501300	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1687	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/13/2005	1/10/2005	I	LA	BRAND DENIS
2005501500	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	192	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/13/2005	1/5/2005	I	LA	VIRGELLE'S INC
2005502797	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	33	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/18/2005	1/15/2005	I	LA	LYRIC TILE COMPANY
2005503062	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	600	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/6/2005	1/5/2005	I	SY	TROPICAL SHELL & GIFTS
2005503474	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	2	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/19/2005	1/12/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005504536	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SHE	42	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/20/2005	1/10/2005	I	LO	CREATIVE IMPORTS INC
2005505373	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SHE	20	NO	ID	ID	T	W	C	C	1/21/2005	1/3/2005	I	LA	BALIZONA LLC
2005506012	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SHE	114	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/24/2005	1/10/2005	I	LO	CREATIVE IMPORTS INC
2005507427	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/26/2005	1/25/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005508026	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	2	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/18/2005	I	AT	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005508140	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	317	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/26/2005	I	HA	RAINBOW CRAFT CO
2005509135	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	3	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/1/2005	1/30/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005509164	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	3	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/1/2005	1/30/2005	I	LA	BERRY JEWELRY COMPANY
2005512328	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	XX	CA	E	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/24/2005	I	BN	AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
2005512330	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	XX	CA	E	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/27/2005	I	BN	AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
2005512330	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	XX	CA	E	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/27/2005	I	BN	AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
2005512330	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SPR	1	NO	XX	CA	E	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/27/2005	I	BN	AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
2005514674	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	350	NO	ID	ID	T	W	C	C	2/14/2005	2/10/2005	I	HA	JUNGLE GIRL ISLAND IMPORTS
2005515194	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	43	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/20/2005	1/18/2005	I	HA	PACIFIC CRAFTS IMPORTS
2005516257	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	40	NO	ID	ID	T	W	C	C	1/11/2005	1/7/2005	I	SF	HYDE JADE NOLAN
2005516287	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	26	NO	ID	ID	T	W	C	C	1/14/2005	1/14/2005	I	SF	MYSTICAL MADNESS INC
2005516396	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	25	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/18/2005	1/14/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005517184	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/22/2005	2/19/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005517915	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	135	NO	PH	IT	T	W	C	C	2/23/2005	2/16/2005	I	NW	RUZZETTI & GOW
2005518440	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SHE	1033	KG	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/11/2005	2/3/2005	I	SY	BIBBEY'S ROCKS & SHELLS
2005519344	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/25/2005	2/25/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005519527	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SHE	24	NO	PH	PH	T	W	R	S	2/17/2005	2/9/2005	I	LO	NAZZ COLLECTION
2005523325	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	10	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/3/2005	2/2/2005	I	SF	BEADS AND PIECES
2005523388	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	45	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/31/2005	1/28/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005523695	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	10	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/17/2005	2/16/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005523782	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	13	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/10/2005	2/9/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005523785	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	79	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/9/2005	2/8/2005	I	SF	BEADS AND PIECES
2005524594	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SHE	67	NO	PH	NL	T	W	C	C	3/8/2005	2/5/2005	I	LO	JCC OF NAPLES
2005525230	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	200	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/8/2005	3/6/2005	I	LA	LYRIC TILE COMPANY
2005526103	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	7108	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/9/2005	3/8/2005	I	LA	BERRY JEWELRY COMPANY
2005526105	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	2232	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/9/2005	3/6/2005	I	LA	BERRY JEWELRY COMPANY
2005526844	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	1	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/14/2005	3/13/2005	I	LA	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005531494	NAUTILUS	SPECIES		NAUTILUS		SPR	8	NO	GB	GB	T	U	C	C	3/18/2005	3/16/2005	I	HN	DOODSON JOHNETTE
2005532051	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	29	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/21/2005	3/19/2005	I	NF	MAITLAND SMITH US, INC
2005534206	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	653	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/23/2005	3/20/2005	I	LA	LYRIC TILE COMPANY
2005534848	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	6	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/7/2005	3/5/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005534881	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	5	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/28/2005	2/25/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005535083	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	47	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/16/2005	2/15/2005	I	SF	BEADS AND PIECES
2005535108	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	507	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/2/2005	3/1/2005	I	SF	BEADS AND PIECES
2005535192	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	32	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/17/2005	3/16/2005	I	SF	MARY FRANCES ACCESSORIES
2005536677	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	10	NO	TH	TH	P	W	C	C	3/10/2005	2/23/2005	I	LA	
2005538301	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	22	NO	PH	PH	T	W	R	S	2/9/2005	2/9/2005	I	LO	NAZZ COLLECTION
2005538844	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	120	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	4/4/2005	3/28/2005	I	HN	MEDITERRANEO INTERNATIONAL LLC
2005539605	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	15	NO	ID	ID	T	W	C	C	4/6/2005	3/26/2005	I	SE	
2005540436	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SHE	1425	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/26/2005	1/12/2005	I	LA	TIDELINE
2005540559	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	4500	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	4/8/2005	4/1/2005	I	NY	FANTASIA WORLD INC
2005540621	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	15	NO	CN	CN	T	W	C	C	4/8/2005	4/6/2005	I	LO	CRIMZON ROSE ACCESSORIES
2005541569	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		***	1	NO	SB	CN	P	W	C	C	1/21/2005	1/21/2005	E	BL	
2005542676	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	4	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	4/12/2005	3/6/2005	I	LA	COHEN MARK IRA
2005543240	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	42	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/16/2005	2/12/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005543247	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	680	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/16/2005	2/15/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005543793	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	350	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/9/2005	2/3/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005543793	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	30	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/9/2005	2/3/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005543793	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	100	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	2/9/2005	2/3/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005543805	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	50	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/15/2005	I	HA	GSM LTD
2005543805	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		SPR	344	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	1/27/2005	1/15/2005	I	HA	GSM LTD
2005544017	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	254	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/3/2005	3/1/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS
2005544017	NAUTILUS	POMPILIUS		NAUTILUS CHAMBERED		JWL	58	NO	PH	PH	T	W	C	C	3/3/2005	3/1/2005	I	HA	SHE SHELLS

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), recommended that the text and the Annexes of that Resolution be fully reviewed before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with regard to the scientific validity of the criteria, definitions, notes and guidelines, and to their applicability to different groups of organisms;

RECALLING that, at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties approved procedures for this review, laid down in Decision 12.97¹;

CONSIDERING the fundamental principles in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article II of the Convention, which specify the species to be included in Appendices I and II;

RECOGNIZING that, to qualify for inclusion in Appendix I, a species must meet biological and trade criteria;

RECALLING that Article II, paragraph 2 (a), provides for the inclusion of species that may become threatened with extinction in Appendix II, in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival;

RECOGNIZING that, for the proper implementation of this provision, it is necessary to adopt appropriate criteria, considering both biological and trade factors;

RECALLING that Article II, paragraph 2 (b), provides only for the inclusion in Appendix II of species that must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species included in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), may be brought under effective control;

CONSIDERING, however, that this provision should also apply where there is a need to bring trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I under effective control;

RECOGNIZING that the range States of a species subject to an amendment proposal should be consulted by the proponent, or on its behalf by the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, and that all Parties shall be consulted by the Secretariat in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING further that, in accordance with the same Article, the Secretariat shall consult intergovernmental bodies having a function in relation to marine species;

CONSIDERING that the Secretariat should also consult other intergovernmental bodies having a function in relation to any species subject to a proposal for amendment;

RECALLING that the international trade in all wild fauna and flora is under the purview of the Convention;

EMPHASIZING the importance of Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting (New Delhi, 1981), regarding the need to provide technical assistance to developing countries in matters relating to the Convention, and specifically in the application of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II;

* Amended at the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties; amended by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 14.19 and with the decisions adopted at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee; and further amended at the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ Deleted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

NOTING the objective to ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's Appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information, take into account socio-economic factors, and meet agreed biological and trade criteria for such amendments; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the application of Rio Principle 15, the Precautionary Approach, in cases of uncertainty;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ADOPTS the following Annexes as an integral part of this Resolution:

- Annex 1: Biological criteria for Appendix I;
- Annex 2 a: Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention;
- Annex 2 b: Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention;
- Annex 3: Special cases;
- Annex 4: Precautionary measures;
- Annex 5: Definitions, explanations and guidelines; and
- Annex 6: Format for proposals to amend the Appendices;

2. RESOLVES that, by virtue of the precautionary approach and in case of uncertainty regarding the status of a species or the impact of trade on the conservation of a species, the Parties shall act in the best interest of the conservation of the species concerned and, when considering proposals to amend Appendix I or II, adopt measures that are proportionate to the anticipated risks to the species;

3. RESOLVES that, when considering proposals to amend Appendices I and II, the following applies:

- a) species that are or may be affected by trade should be included in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1, if they meet at least one of the biological criteria listed in Annex 1;
- b) species should be included in Appendix II under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 2 (a), if they satisfy the criteria listed in Annex 2 a;
- c) species should be included in Appendix II under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 2 (b), if they satisfy the criteria listed in Annex 2 b;
- d) no single species may be included in more than one Appendix at the same time;
- e) however subspecies, populations or other subcategories of a species may be included in different Appendices at the same time in accordance with the relevant criteria in Annex 3;
- f) higher taxa should be included in the Appendices only if they satisfy the relevant criteria in Annex 3;
- g) hybrids may be specifically included in the Appendices but only if they form distinct and stable populations in the wild;
- h) species of which all specimens in trade have been bred in captivity or artificially propagated should not be included in the Appendices if there is a negligible probability of trade taking place in specimens of wild origin;
- i) species included in Appendix I for which sufficient data are available to demonstrate that they do not meet the criteria listed in Annex 1 should be transferred to Appendix II only in accordance with the relevant precautionary measures listed in Annex 4;

- j) species included in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), that do not meet the criteria listed in Annex 2 a, should be deleted only in accordance with the relevant precautionary measures listed in Annex 4; and species included in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b), because they look like the species subject to the deletion, or for a related reason, should also be deleted only in accordance with the relevant precautionary measures; and
 - k) the views, if any, of intergovernmental bodies with competence for the management of the species concerned should be taken into account;
4. RESOLVES that proposals to amend Appendices I and II should be based on the best information available and, when appropriate, presented in the format in Annex 6;
 5. URGES Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal;
 6. ENCOURAGES proponents that submit proposals to transfer species to Appendix I, or to establish zero export quotas for species under review in accordance with the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade, to take account of the applicable findings of that review;
 7. RESOLVES that annotations to proposals to amend Appendix I or Appendix II should be made in accordance with the applicable Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, be specific and accurate as to which parts and derivatives are covered by the Convention, include those specimens that first appear in international trade as export from range States and that dominate the trade and the demand from the wild resource, and should, to the extent possible, be harmonized with existing annotations;
 8. ENCOURAGES Parties, when sufficient relevant biological data are available, to include a quantitative evaluation in the supporting statement of the amendment proposal;
 9. RESOLVES that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed by the range States and proponents, in collaboration with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, subject to the availability of funds;
 10. URGES Parties and cooperating organizations to provide financial and technical assistance, when requested, in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices, the development of management programmes, and the review of the effectiveness of the inclusion of species in the Appendices. Parties should be open to using other available international mechanisms and instruments for these purposes in the broader context of biodiversity; and
 11. REPEALS part of Resolution Conf. 1.3 (Bern, 1976) – *Deletion of species from Appendix II or III in certain circumstances* – paragraph a).

Annex 1

Biological criteria for Appendix I

The following criteria must be read in conjunction with the definitions, explanations and guidelines listed in Annex 5, including the footnote with respect to application of the definition of 'decline' for commercially exploited aquatic species.

A species is considered to be threatened with extinction if it meets, or is likely to meet, **at least one** of the following criteria.

- A. The wild population is small, and is characterized by **at least one** of the following:

- i) an observed, inferred or projected decline in the number of individuals or the area and quality of habitat;
 - ii) each subpopulation being very small;
 - iii) a majority of individuals being concentrated geographically during one or more life-history phases;
 - iv) large short-term fluctuations in population size; or
 - v) a high vulnerability to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors.
- B. The wild population has a restricted area of distribution and is characterized by **at least one** of the following:
- i) fragmentation or occurrence at very few locations;
 - ii) large fluctuations in the area of distribution or the number of subpopulations;
 - iii) a high vulnerability to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors; or
 - iv) an observed, inferred or projected decrease in any one of the following:
 - the area of distribution;
 - the area of habitat;
 - the number of subpopulations;
 - the number of individuals;
 - the quality of habitat; or
 - the recruitment.
- C. A marked decline in the population size in the wild, which has been **either**:
- i) observed as ongoing or as having occurred in the past (but with a potential to resume); **or**
 - ii) inferred or projected on the basis of any one of the following:
 - a decrease in area of habitat;
 - a decrease in quality of habitat;
 - levels or patterns of exploitation;
 - a high vulnerability to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors; or
 - a decreasing recruitment.

Annex 2 a **Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention**

The following criteria must be read in conjunction with the definitions, explanations and guidelines listed in Annex 5, including the footnote with respect to application of the definition of 'decline' for commercially exploited aquatic species.

A species should be included in Appendix II when, on the basis of available trade data and information on the status and trends of the wild population(s), **at least one** of the following criteria is met:

- A. It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that the regulation of trade in the species is necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future; or

- B. It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that regulation of trade in the species is required to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild is not reducing the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences.
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Annex 2 b

Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention

Species may be included in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b), if **either one** of the following criteria is met:

- A. The specimens of the species in the form in which they are traded resemble specimens of a species included in Appendix II under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 2 (a), or in Appendix I, so that enforcement officers who encounter specimens of CITES-listed species are unlikely to be able to distinguish between them; or
- B. There are compelling reasons other than those given in criterion A above to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved.
-

Annex 3

Special cases

Split-listing

Listing of a species in more than one Appendix should be avoided in general in view of the enforcement problems it creates.

When split-listing does occur, this should generally be on the basis of national or regional populations, rather than subspecies. Split-listings that place some populations of a species in the Appendices, and the rest outside the Appendices, should normally not be permitted.

For species outside the jurisdiction of any State, listing in the Appendices should use the terms used in other relevant international agreements, if any, to define the population. If no such international agreement exists, then the Appendices should define the population by region or by geographic coordinates.

Taxonomic names below the species level should not be used in the Appendices unless the taxon in question is highly distinctive and the use of the name would not give rise to enforcement problems.

Higher taxa

If all species of a higher taxon are included in Appendix I or II, they should be included under the name of the higher taxon. If some species in a higher taxon are included in Appendix I or II and all the rest in the other Appendix, the latter species should be included under the name of the higher taxon, with an appropriate annotation made in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Resolutions on the use of annotations in the Appendices.

When preparing a proposal to include a higher taxon in the Appendices, Parties are encouraged to note any extinct species in the higher taxon and to clarify whether these are included or excluded from the proposed listing.

Parties contemplating preparing a proposal to transfer an individual plant species from a higher-taxon listing in Appendix II to a separate listing in Appendix I should consider:

- i) the ease with which it can be propagated artificially;
- ii) the extent to which it is currently available in cultivation from artificially propagated specimens; and
- iii) any practical problems in identifying the species, particularly in the form in which it may be traded.

Extinct species

Extinct species should not normally be proposed for inclusion in the Appendices. Extinct species already included in the Appendices should be retained in the Appendices if they meet one of the precautionary criteria included in Annex 4.D.

Annex 4

Precautionary measures

When considering proposals to amend Appendix I or II, the Parties shall, by virtue of the precautionary approach and in case of uncertainty either as regards the status of a species or the impact of trade on the conservation of a species, act in the best interest of the conservation of the species concerned and adopt measures that are proportionate to the anticipated risks to the species.

- A. 1. No species listed in Appendix I shall be removed from the Appendices unless it has been first transferred to Appendix II, with monitoring of any impact of trade on the species for at least two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties with the exception that extinct species may be deleted from Appendix I without first being transferred to Appendix II subject to the provisions of paragraph D.
- 2. Species included in Appendix I should only be transferred to Appendix II:
 - a) If they do not satisfy the relevant criteria in Annex 1 and when one of the following precautionary safeguards is met:
 - i) the species is not in demand for international trade, nor is its transfer to Appendix II likely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, any other species included in Appendix I; or
 - ii) the species is likely to be in demand for trade, but its management is such that the Conference of the Parties is satisfied with:
 - A) implementation by the range States of the requirements of the Convention, in particular Article IV; and
 - B) appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with the requirements of the Convention; or
 - iii) an integral part of the amendment proposal is an export quota or other special measure approved by the Conference of the Parties, based on management measures described in the supporting statement of the amendment proposal, provided that effective enforcement controls are in place; or
 - b) when a ranching proposal is submitted in accordance with an applicable Resolution and is adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- 3. No proposal for transfer of a species from Appendix I to Appendix II shall be considered from a Party that has entered a reservation for the species in question, unless that Party agrees to remove the reservation within 90 days of the adoption of the amendment.
- 4. No species should be deleted from Appendix II if such deletion would be likely to result in it qualifying for inclusion in the Appendices in the near future.

5. No species should be deleted from Appendix II if, within the last two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, it has been subject to a recommendation under the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade to improve its conservation status.
- B. The following review procedures shall apply when a species is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to paragraph A. 2. iii) above:
1. Where the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee or a Party becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas of another Party, the Secretariat shall be informed and, if the Secretariat fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, it shall inform the Standing Committee which may, after consultation with the Party concerned, recommend to all Parties that they suspend trade with that Party in specimens of CITES-listed species, and/or request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population back to Appendix I.
 2. If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals or Plants Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.
- C. With regard to quotas established pursuant to paragraph A. 2. iii) above:
1. If a Party wishes to renew, amend or delete such a quota, it shall submit an appropriate proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 2. When a quota has been established for a limited period of time, after that period the quota will become zero until a new quota has been established.
- D. Species that are regarded as possibly extinct should not be deleted from the Appendices if:
1. they may be affected by trade in the event of their rediscovery; or
 2. they resemble extant species included in the Appendices; or
 3. their deletion would cause difficulties implementing the Convention; or
 4. their removal would complicate the interpretation of the Appendices.
-

Annex 5

Definitions, explanations and guidelines

NOTE: Where numerical guidelines are cited in this Annex, they are presented only as examples, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa because of differences in their biology.

Species

In Article I of the Convention, the term 'species' is defined as "any species, subspecies or geographically separate population thereof".

'Species' and 'subspecies' refer to the biological concept of a species, and do not require any further definition.

The two terms also cover varieties.

'Geographically separate population' refers to parts of a species or a subspecies within particular geographical boundaries. This can also refer to populations or subpopulations, or, for the sake of convenience in certain cases, to 'stocks' as the term is understood in fisheries management.

Until now, the Conference of the Parties has interpreted 'geographically separate populations' as populations delimited by geopolitical boundaries, whereas they have rarely used the other option of geographical boundaries.

Affected by trade

A species "is or may be affected by trade" if:

- i) it is known to be in trade (using the definition of 'trade' in Article I of the Convention), and that trade has or may have a detrimental impact on the status of the species; or
- ii) it is suspected to be in trade, or there is demonstrable potential international demand for the species, that may be detrimental to its survival in the wild.

Area of distribution

The 'area of distribution' of a species is defined as the area contained within the shortest continuous imaginary boundary which can be drawn to encompass all the known, inferred or projected sites of occurrence, excluding cases of vagrancy and introductions outside its natural range (though inferring and projecting area of occurrence should be undertaken carefully, and in a precautionary manner). The area within the imaginary boundary should, however, exclude significant areas where the species does not occur, and so, in defining an area of distribution, account should be taken of discontinuities or disjunctions in the spatial distribution of species. This encompasses the concept of area of occupancy. For migratory species, the area of distribution is the smallest area essential at any stage for the survival of that species (e.g. colonial nesting sites, feeding sites for migratory taxa, etc.). The determination that a species has a restricted area of distribution is taxon-specific and should take into account considerations such as habitat specificity, population density and endemism.

Decline

A 'decline' is a reduction in the abundance, or area of distribution, or area of habitat of a species. The assessment of decline by reference to area of habitat may be more appropriate where there are intrinsic difficulties in measuring the number of individuals.

Decline can be expressed in two different ways: (i) the overall long-term extent of decline; or (ii) the recent rate of decline. The long-term extent of decline is the total estimated or inferred percentage reduction from a baseline level of abundance or area of distribution. The recent rate of decline is the percentage change in abundance or area of distribution over a recent time period. The data used to estimate or infer a baseline for extent of decline should extend as far back into the past as possible.

The judgement that a decline is marked is taxon-specific and can be justified by a number of considerations, for example the population dynamics of a related taxonomic group. A general guideline for a marked historical extent of decline is a percentage decline to 5%-30% of the baseline, depending on the biology and productivity of the species. Productivity is the maximum percentage growth rate of a population. It is a complex function of reproductive biology, fecundity, individual growth rates, natural mortality, age at maturity and longevity. More-productive species tend to have high fecundity, rapid individual growth rates and high turnover of generations.

The extremes of 5% and 30% will be applicable to only a relatively small number of species, but some species may even fall outside of these extremes. However, both these figures are presented only as examples, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa because of differences in their biology (²see footnote with respect to application of decline to commercially exploited aquatic species).

A general guideline for a marked recent rate of decline is a percentage decline of 50% or more in the last 10 years or three generations, whichever is the longer. If the population is small, a percentage decline of 20% or more in the last 5 years or 2 generations (whichever is the longer) may be more appropriate. However, these figures are presented only as examples, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa because of differences in their biology.

The historical extent of decline and the recent rate of decline should be considered in conjunction with one another. In general, the higher the historical extent of decline, and the lower the productivity of the species, the more important a given recent rate of decline is.

In estimating or inferring the historical extent of decline or the recent rate of decline, all relevant data should be taken into account. A decline need not necessarily be ongoing. If data are available only for a short period and the extent or rate of decline based on these data are cause for concern, the guidelines above (extrapolated as necessary or relevant) should still apply. However, natural fluctuations should not normally count as part of a decline, but an observed decline should not necessarily be considered part of a natural fluctuation unless there is evidence for this. A decline that is the result of legal activities carried out pursuant to a scientifically-based harvesting programme that reduces the population to a planned level, not detrimental to the survival of the species, would not normally be covered by the term 'decline'.

² **Application of decline for commercially exploited aquatic species**

In marine and large freshwater bodies, a narrower range of 5-20 % is deemed to be more appropriate in most cases, with a range of 5-10 % being applicable for species with high productivity, 10-15 % for species with medium productivity and 15-20 % for species with low productivity. Nevertheless some species may fall outside this range. Low productivity is correlated with low mortality rate and high productivity with high mortality. One possible guideline for indexing productivity is the natural mortality rate, with the range 0.2-0.5 per year indicating medium productivity.

In general, the historical extent of decline should be the primary criterion for consideration of listing in Appendix I. However, in circumstances where information to estimate the extent of decline is limited, the rate of decline over a recent period could itself still provide some information on the extent of decline.

For listing in Appendix II, the historical extent of decline and the recent rate of decline should be considered in conjunction with one another. The higher the historical extent of decline, and the lower the productivity of the species, the more important a given recent rate of decline is.

A general guideline for a marked recent rate of decline is the rate of decline that would drive a population down within approximately a 10 year period from the current population level to the historical extent of decline guideline (i.e. 5-20 % of baseline for exploited fish species). There should rarely be a need for concern for populations that have exhibited an historical extent of decline of less than 50 %, unless the recent rate of decline has been extremely high.

Even if a population is not declining appreciably, it could be considered for listing in Appendix II if it is near the extent of decline guidelines recommended above for consideration for Appendix I listing. A range of between 5 % and 10 % above the relevant extent of decline might be considered as a definition of 'near', taking due account of the productivity of the species.

A recent rate of decline is important only if it is still occurring, or may resume, and is projected to lead to the species reaching the applicable point for that species in the Appendix I extent of decline guidelines within approximately a 10 year period. Otherwise the overall extent of decline is what is important. When sufficient data are available, the recent rate of decline should be calculated over approximately a 10 year period. If fewer data are available, annual rates over a shorter period could be used. If there is evidence of a change in the trend, greater weight should be given to the more recent consistent trend. In most cases, listing would only be considered if the decline were projected to continue.

In considering the percentages indicated above, account needs to be taken of taxon- and case specific biological and other factors that are likely to affect extinction risk. Depending on the biology, patterns of exploitation and area of distribution of the taxon, vulnerability factors (as listed in this Annex) may increase this risk, whereas mitigating factors (e.g. large absolute numbers or refugia) may reduce it.

Extinct

A species is considered to be 'extinct' when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died or when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the species' life cycle and life form.

Fluctuations

Fluctuations in population size or area of distribution are considered large when the population size or area in question varies widely, rapidly or frequently. The judgement that there are large short-term fluctuations in the number of individuals is taxon-specific. For instance, it depends on the generation length of the taxon.

Fragmentation

'Fragmentation' refers to the case where most individuals within a taxon are found in small and relatively isolated subpopulations, which increases the probability that these small subpopulations will become extinct and the opportunities for re-establishment are limited.

Generation length

'Generation length' is the average age of parents of the current cohort (i.e. newborn individuals in the population). Generation length therefore reflects the turnover rate of breeding individuals in a population. Generation length is greater than the age at first breeding and less than the age of the oldest breeding individual, except in taxa that breed only once. Where generation length varies under threat, the more natural (i.e. pre-disturbance) generation length should be used.

Inferred or projected

This refers to estimations using indirect or direct methods. Inferences may be made on the basis either of direct measurements or from indirect evidence. Projection involves extrapolation to infer likely future values.

Near future

This refers to a time period in which it can be projected or inferred that a species would satisfy one (or more) of the criteria in Annex 1 to the present Resolution unless it is included in Appendix II. This will be taxon- and case-specific but should be greater than 5 years and less than 10 years.

Population issues

Population

'Population' refers to the total number of individuals of the species (as 'species' is defined in Article I of the Convention and in this Annex).

Wild population

'Wild population' refers to the total number of free-living individuals of the species within its area of distribution, as defined in this Annex.

Subpopulation

'Subpopulations' are defined as geographically or otherwise distinct groups in the population between which there is limited genetic exchange.

Population size

When providing details on the size of a population or subpopulation, it should be made clear whether the information presented relates to an estimate of the total number of individuals or to the effective population size (i.e. individuals capable of reproduction, excluding individuals that are

environmentally, behaviourally or otherwise reproductively suppressed in the wild) or to another appropriate measure, index or component of the population.

In the case of species biologically dependent on other species for all or part of their life cycles, biologically appropriate values for the host or co-dependent species should be chosen.

Small wild population

The judgement that a wild population is small is taxon-specific and can be justified by a number of considerations, for example the population of a related taxonomic group. For some low-productivity species where data exist to make an estimate, a figure of less than 5,000 individuals has been found to be an appropriate guideline (not a threshold) of what constitutes a small wild population, but the number could be higher for higher productivity species. However, this figure is presented only as an example, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa. There will be many cases where this numerical guideline does not apply.

Very small wild subpopulation

The judgement that a wild subpopulation is very small is taxon-specific. For some species where data exist to make an estimate, a figure of less than 500 individuals has been found to be an appropriate guideline (not a threshold) of what constitutes a very small wild subpopulation. However, this figure is presented only as an example, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa. There will be many cases where this numerical guideline does not apply.

Recruitment

'Recruitment' is the total number of individuals added to any particular demographic class of a population by either sexual or asexual reproduction.

Threatened with extinction

'Threatened with extinction' is defined in Annex 1. The vulnerability of a species to threats of extinction depends on its population demographics, biological characteristics (such as body size, trophic level, life cycle, breeding structure or social structure requirements for successful reproduction), and vulnerability due to aggregating habits, natural fluctuations in population size, or residency/migratory patterns. This makes it impossible to give numerical threshold values for population size or area of distribution that are applicable to all taxa.

Vulnerability

'Vulnerability' can be defined as the susceptibility to intrinsic or external effects that increase the risk of extinction, even when mitigating factors are taken into account. There are a number of taxon- or case-specific biological and other factors that may affect the extinction risk associated with a given percentage decline, small population size or restricted area of distribution. These can be, but are not limited to, aspects of any of the following:

Intrinsic factors

- Life history (e.g. low fecundity, slow growth rate of the individual, high age at first maturity, long generation time)
- Low absolute numbers or biomass or restricted area of distribution
- Population structure (age/size structure, sex ratio)
- Behavioural factors (e.g. social structure, migration, aggregating behaviour)
- Density (for sessile or semi-sessile species)
- Specialized niche requirements (e.g. diet, habitat)
- Species associations such as symbiosis and other forms of co-dependency
- Reduced genetic diversity
- Depensation (prone to continuing decline even in the absence of exploitation)
- Endemism
- Seed dispersal mechanism
- Specialized pollinators

Extrinsic factors

- Selectivity of removals (that may compromise recruitment)
 - Threats from alien invasive species (hybridization, disease transmission, predation, etc.)
 - Habitat degradation (contamination, soil erosion, alteration by alien invasive species, etc.)
 - Habitat loss/destruction
 - Habitat fragmentation
 - Harsh environmental conditions
 - Threats from disease
 - Rapid environmental change (e.g. climate regime shifts)
 - Stochastic events.
-

Annex 6 Format for proposals to amend the Appendices

The following provides information and instructions for the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices and the appropriate supporting statement. Proponents should be guided by the need to provide to the Conference of the Parties sufficient information, of sufficient quality and in sufficient detail, to allow it to judge the proposal against the criteria established for the proposed action. This means that the relevant published and unpublished sources of information should be used, although for some species the amount of scientific information will be limited. Furthermore, this means that it may not be possible to address all elements of the proposal format. Analogy with related taxonomic groups or species that are ecologically similar may be used to guide judgements. Where research has been undertaken specifically to obtain information for the proposal, it should be presented in sufficient detail to be assessed by the Parties.

Parties are reminded that proposals should normally be limited to 12 pages (exclusive of references cited). If the proposal is longer than 12 pages, the proponent should provide translations into the working languages of the Convention.

A. Proposal

The proponent should indicate the specific amendment to the Appendices and any relevant annotations or qualifications. The proponent should justify the basis on which the species meets the relevant criteria.

- Inclusion in Appendix I or transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I. Specify which of the criteria in Annex 1 of the Resolution are satisfied.
- Inclusion in Appendix II
 - in accordance with Article II 2 (a). Specify which of the criteria in Annex 2 a of the Resolution are satisfied.
 - in accordance with Article II 2 (b)
 - for reasons of look-alike problems (criterion A of Annex 2 b). In this case, the names of the similar species already included in the Appendices should be given in section C11, 'Additional remarks'.
 - for other reasons (such as those referred to in Annex 2 b, criterion B or Annex 3 to this Resolution).
- Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II in accordance with a precautionary measure specified in Annex 4 to this Resolution. Specify which of the criteria in Annex 2 of this Resolution are satisfied; specify why the criteria in Annex 1 of this Resolution are no longer satisfied; specify which of the measures in Annex 4 of this Resolution are satisfied or implemented.

- Deletion from Appendix II. Specify why the criteria in Annex 2 of this Resolution are not satisfied.
- Other action (provide explanation, e.g. amendment of a quota).

Annotations

If a specific annotation to the listing in the Appendices is proposed, the proponent should:

- ensure that the proposed annotation is in compliance with the applicable Resolutions;
- indicate the practical intent of the annotation;
- be specific and accurate as to the parts and derivatives to be covered by the annotation;
- provide clear and simple definitions of any terms in the annotation that may not be easily understood by enforcement personnel and user groups (noting that definitions should be specific to CITES and scientifically and technically precise to the extent practicable for purposes of the annotation);
- ensure that the annotation includes those specimens that first appear in international trade as exports from range States and that dominate the trade and the demand from the wild resource;
- harmonize, to the extent practicable, new annotations with existing annotations; and
- where applicable, provide identification sheets to be included in the CITES Identification Manual that illustrate the parts and derivatives covered under the annotation.

B. Proponent

The proponent may only be a Party to the Convention, in accordance with Article XV of the Convention.

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

The proponent should provide sufficient information to allow the Conference of the Parties to identify clearly the taxon that is the subject of the proposal.

1.1 Class

1.2 Order

1.3 Family

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year

If the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the name provided by that reference should be entered here. If the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the proponent should provide references as to the source of the name used.

1.5 Scientific synonyms

The proponent should provide information on other scientific names or synonyms under which the species concerned may be known currently, especially if these names are used in the trade in the species.

1.6 Common names (including, where appropriate, trade names)

1.7 Code numbers

If the species concerned is already included in the Appendices, refer to the code numbers in the CITES Identification Manual.

2. Overview

Provide a brief overview of key elements of the proposal. Parties should cite key sections of the supporting statement.

3. Species characteristics

The information required in this section is a summary of surveys, literature searches, and relevant studies. The references used must be listed in section 12 of the proposal. It is understood that the quality of the information available will vary a lot, but these instructions indicate the type of information that is required. If the proposal relates to a geographically separate population or subspecies, it should consider, where relevant, the biological species in its entirety to provide the appropriate context.

3.1 Distribution

Specify the currently known range of the species. If possible, provide information to indicate whether or not the distribution of the species is continuous and, if it is not, indicate to what degree it is fragmented.

3.2 Habitat

Specify the types of habitats occupied by the species and, when relevant, the degree of habitat specificity and the extent of each habitat type over the range of the species.

3.3 Biological characteristics

Provide a summary of general biological and life history characteristics of the species (e.g. reproduction, recruitment, survival rate, migration, sex ratio, regeneration or reproductive strategies).

3.4 Morphological characteristics

Provide a general description of the morphological diagnostic characteristics of the species, including colour, and information on morphological features by which the species can be differentiated from taxonomically closely related species.

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

If available, provide information about the role of this species in its ecosystem, and other relevant ecological information, as well as about the potential impact of this proposal on that role.

4. Status and trends

This section includes qualitative and quantitative information that allows past and present trends to be evaluated pursuant to the criteria. The sources used must be referenced in section 12 of the proposal. It is understood that the quality of the information available will vary. The instructions below indicate the type of information that should be provided if possible. If the proposal relates to a geographically separate population or subspecies, it should consider, when relevant, the biological species in its entirety to provide the appropriate context. If available, the proposal should include any relevant quantitative analyses, stock assessments, etc. The proposal should note whether conclusions are based on observations, inferences or projections.

4.1 Habitat trends

Give information on the nature, rate and extent of habitat change (e.g. loss, degradation or modification), noting when applicable the degree of fragmentation and discernible changes in the quality of habitat. Where appropriate, the relationship between habitat and population trends should be described.

4.2 Population size

Give an estimate of the current total population or number of individuals differentiated by relevant age classes where possible, or other indices of population abundance, based on the most recently available data. Provide information on the source of the data used. Where appropriate, provide the number of subpopulations, and their estimated sizes. Population size may be estimated by reference to population density, having due regard to habitat type and other methodological considerations.

4.3 Population structure

Provide basic information on the current structure of the population and any past or current changes over time in that structure (e.g. social structure, population demographics, proportion of mature individuals or sex ratio).

4.4 Population trends

Basic, quantitative and qualitative information, when available, should be provided on current and past trends in the species' abundance (provide sources). The period over which these trends, if any, have been measured should be indicated. If the species naturally undergoes marked fluctuations in population size, information should be provided to demonstrate that the trend transcends natural fluctuations. If generation-time has been used in estimating the trend, state how the generation-time has been estimated.

4.5 Geographic trends

Provide information, when available on current and past trends in the species' distribution, indicating the period over which these trends, if any, have been measured. If relevant, give data on the degree and periodicity of fluctuations in the area of distribution.

5. Threats

Specify the nature, intensity and, if possible, relative importance of human-induced threats (e.g. habitat loss or degradation; over-exploitation; effects of competition, predation or disease by introduced species; hybridization; toxins and pollutants; etc.).

6. Utilization and trade

6.1 National utilization

Specify the types and extent of all known uses of the species, indicating trends if possible. Provide details of harvest methods. Indicate the extent to which utilization is from captive-bred, artificially propagated, or wild specimens.

Provide details of any stockpiles known to exist, and the measures that might be taken to dispose of them.

6.2 Legal trade

Quantify the level of international trade, identifying the source of statistics used (e.g. Customs statistics, CITES annual report data, FAO data, industry reports, etc.). Provide justification for inferences made about trade levels. Provide information about the nature of the trade (e.g. primarily for commercial purposes, primarily live specimens, primarily parts and derivatives, primarily of captive-bred or artificially propagated specimens, etc.) and about how the proposed amendment is expected to affect the nature of the trade.

6.3 Parts and derivatives in trade

To the extent possible, list parts and derivatives, including types of products in trade, Customs tariff codes specific to those parts and derivatives, and major importing and exporting countries that trade in those parts and derivatives.

6.4 Illegal trade

To the extent possible, quantify the level of illegal trade, nationally and internationally, and describe its nature. Assess the relative importance of this trade in relation to legal offtake for national use or legal international trade. Provide information on how the proposed amendment is expected to affect the nature of the trade.

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

Discuss the importance of current and future exploitation for international trade relative to overall use (domestic included) as a threat to the species in question.

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

Provide details of legislation relating to the conservation of the species, including its habitat, either specifically (such as endangered-species legislation) or generally (such as legislation on wildlife and accompanying regulations). Indicate the nature of legal protection (i.e. is the species totally protected, or is harvesting regulated or controlled). Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of this legislation in ensuring the conservation and/or management of the species.

Provide similar information relating to legislation governing the management of trade in the species in question. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of this legislation in controlling illegal trade in the species.

7.2 International

Provide details of international instruments relating to the species in question, including the nature of the protection afforded by such instruments. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of these instruments in ensuring the conservation and/or management of the species.

Provide similar information on international instruments relating to the management of trade in the species in question. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of these instruments in controlling illegal trade in the species.

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

Provide details of programmes in place in the range States to manage populations of the species in question (e.g. controlled harvest from the wild, captive breeding or artificial propagation, reintroduction, ranching, quota systems, etc.). Include, where appropriate, details such as planned harvest rates, planned population sizes, procedures for the establishment and implementation of quotas, and mechanisms for ensuring that wildlife management advice is taken into account.

Where applicable, provide details of any mechanisms used to ensure a return from utilization of the species in question to conservation and/or management programmes (e.g. pricing schemes, community ownership plans, export tariffs, etc.).

8.2 Population monitoring

Provide details of programmes in place to monitor the status of wild populations and the sustainability of offtake from the wild.

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

Provide information on measures in place, in addition to CITES, to control the movement of specimens of the species in question across international borders. Include information about marking schemes in place, if any.

8.3.2 Domestic

Provide information on controls in the range States aimed at ensuring a sustainable harvest from the wild of the species in question. Include information on education, compliance and enforcement activities as appropriate, and an assessment of the effectiveness of the programmes.

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

Where applicable, provide details of commercial captive-breeding or artificial propagation operations, including plantations, for the species in question within the country in question, including the size of captive stocks and the production, and the extent to which these operations are either contributing to a conservation programme or meeting a demand that would otherwise be met by specimens from the wild. Discuss any management implications of captive-breeding or artificial propagation programmes. Also provide information on the extent of captive-breeding or artificial propagation outside the country or countries of origin to the extent possible.

8.5 Habitat conservation

Provide information, where available, regarding the number, size and type of protected areas relevant to the habitat of the species, and on habitat conservation programmes outside protected areas.

8.6 Safeguards

In the case of proposals to transfer species from Appendix I to Appendix II or to delete species from Appendix II, or proposals involving substantive annotations, provide information on any relevant safeguards.

If the proposed amendment is likely to lead to an increase in trade in the species concerned, explain why this would not result in unsustainable trade in similar species.

9. Information on similar species

Give the names of species of which specimens in trade look very similar. Provide details on how they may be distinguished, including, in particular, details on those commodities or parts and derivatives most common in trade, and explain whether or not it is reasonable to expect an informed non-expert to be able to make a firm identification. Provide details on how to resolve potential difficulties in distinguishing specimens of the species proposed for listing from those of similar species, in particular those specimens most common in trade.

10. Consultations

Provide details of the consultation undertaken to secure comments on the proposal from the range States of the species, either through direct contact or via the CITES Secretariat. Comments received from each country should be provided. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.

In cases of proposals to transfer Appendix-II species that are subject to the Review of Significant Trade to Appendix I, the proponent should consult the affected range State(s) and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee. The proponent should state the reasons to justify why the amendment proposal was made. In cases of consultation with Parties via the CITES Secretariat, information from range States and non-range States should be separated.

In the case of species that are also managed through other international agreements or intergovernmental bodies, provide details of the consultations undertaken to obtain the comments of those organizations or bodies, and indicate how those comments have been addressed in the supporting statement. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.

11. Additional remarks

12. References

To: Robbins, Tasha[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Conway, Laura (Lori)
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:46:41-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T14:46:54-05:00

Thank you! Have a great night and stay warm.

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Laura,

Update to participants list.

Jerome Ford will be here in person and Paul Souza will call in. Robyn nor Theresa will participate.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:43 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Hi Tasha,
Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!
Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale

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From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.
Best,
Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc
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Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc
Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale
Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [<mailto:tasha | robbins@ios.doi.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,
Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha | robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm
Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose those dates. Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,
Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [<mailto:tasha | robbins@ios.doi.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you
Raya

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To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002, cell 202(b) (6)

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,
Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM
To: [Tasha L Robbins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Tasha.L.Robbins@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

Best,
Raya

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[Tasha L Robbins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Tasha.L.Robbins@ios.doi.gov)

To: Conway, Laura (Lori)[Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-03T14:48:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T14:48:22-05:00

Thanks Laura, you too.

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:46 PM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you! Have a great night and stay warm.

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
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Hi Laura,

Update to participants list.

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Lori Conway | WilmerHale
Assistant to Andy Spielman,

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Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

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David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

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Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

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Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

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Tasha L. Robbins

Executive Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary

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To: Larrabee, Jason[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Foster, Maureen[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Reynolds[michael_reynolds@nps.gov]; Sue Masica[sue_masica@nps.gov]; Mendelson, Lisa[lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov]; Lena McDowall[Lena_McDowall@nps.gov]; Shawn Bengel[shawn_benge@nps.gov]; William Shaddox[bill_shaddox@nps.gov]; Leisz, Nadine[nadine_leisz@nps.gov]
From: Bowron, Jessica
Sent: 2018-01-03T15:05:12-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FY 2019 NPS land acquisition list for ASFWP review (due to POB Jan 8th)
Received: 2018-01-03T15:06:14-05:00
[briefing on LARS 2019.doc](#)
[elma 2019 C.pdf](#)
[grte 2019 C.pdf](#)
[jela 2019 C.pdf](#)
[katm 2019 C.pdf](#)
[lewi 2019 C.pdf](#)
[liri 2019 C.pdf](#)
[obri 2019 C.pdf](#)
[ovvi 2019 C.pdf](#)
[slbe 2019 C.pdf](#)
[anti 2019 C.pdf](#)
[biso 2019 C.pdf](#)
[buff 2019 C.pdf](#)
[cebe 2019 C.pdf](#)
[NPS requests--expanded information.docx](#)

Jason, attached is additional information on the land acquisition request list, including maps for each project. A briefing document on the LARS system is also attached.

Jessica Bowron
Comptroller
National Park Service
(o) 202-513-7138
(c) 202-280-8329

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 11:05 AM, Larrabee, Jason <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Jessica,
I'm going to need more information on each proposal. A briefing is fine, but I would like the information in advance if you want to sit down. Otherwise, a packet of information on the parcels, location, reasoning, etc... Maps are key as well.
Please let me know what's doable.
Jason

Jason Larrabee
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) MIB Room 3154
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202 208 4416

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

On Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 12:10 PM, Bowron, Jessica <jessica_bowron@nps.gov> wrote:

Jason,

Though the FY 2019 President's Budget Request will show \$0 requested for land acquisition projects, Congress has given clear direction that the Department should submit prioritized land acquisition lists for their consideration. The attached is NPS' recommended line-item land acquisition project list for your review; it builds to the FY 2017 enacted level, which is our target from POB.

The NPS' list is due to POB on Jan 8th; from there, it will be reviewed by OMB. Assuming they concur, the NPS will then develop full project data sheets that describe each project, as well as maps. DOI will submit the materials to Congress following the FY 2019 President's Budget Request being published in February 2018.

The list was developed using the Land Acquisition Ranking System (LARS). Initial information for each project is provided by the park unit and reviewed by regional or field offices of the Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition staff in each office assists the Regional staff in ranking the requests received using guidelines provided by the Washington (WASO) Program Office. Regional ranking scores and lists, as well as information sheets, are submitted to the WASO Land Acquisition Program Office. The WASO Program Office then ranks all requests in accordance with their technical score. The combined score of the Regional and WASO ranking process is used to determine the initial national priority list. Major criteria used in LARS includes: Threat to, and Preservation of the Resource; Visitor Use Facility Accommodation; Previous Commitments Made to Landowner; Involvement of Partners/Non Profits; Recreational Opportunities; and, Regional Priority of the Project.

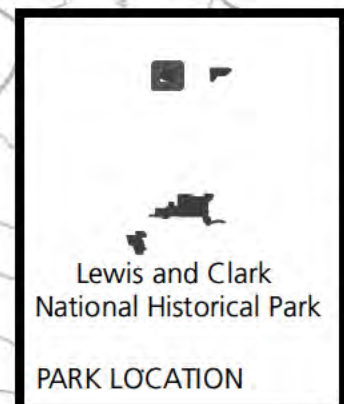
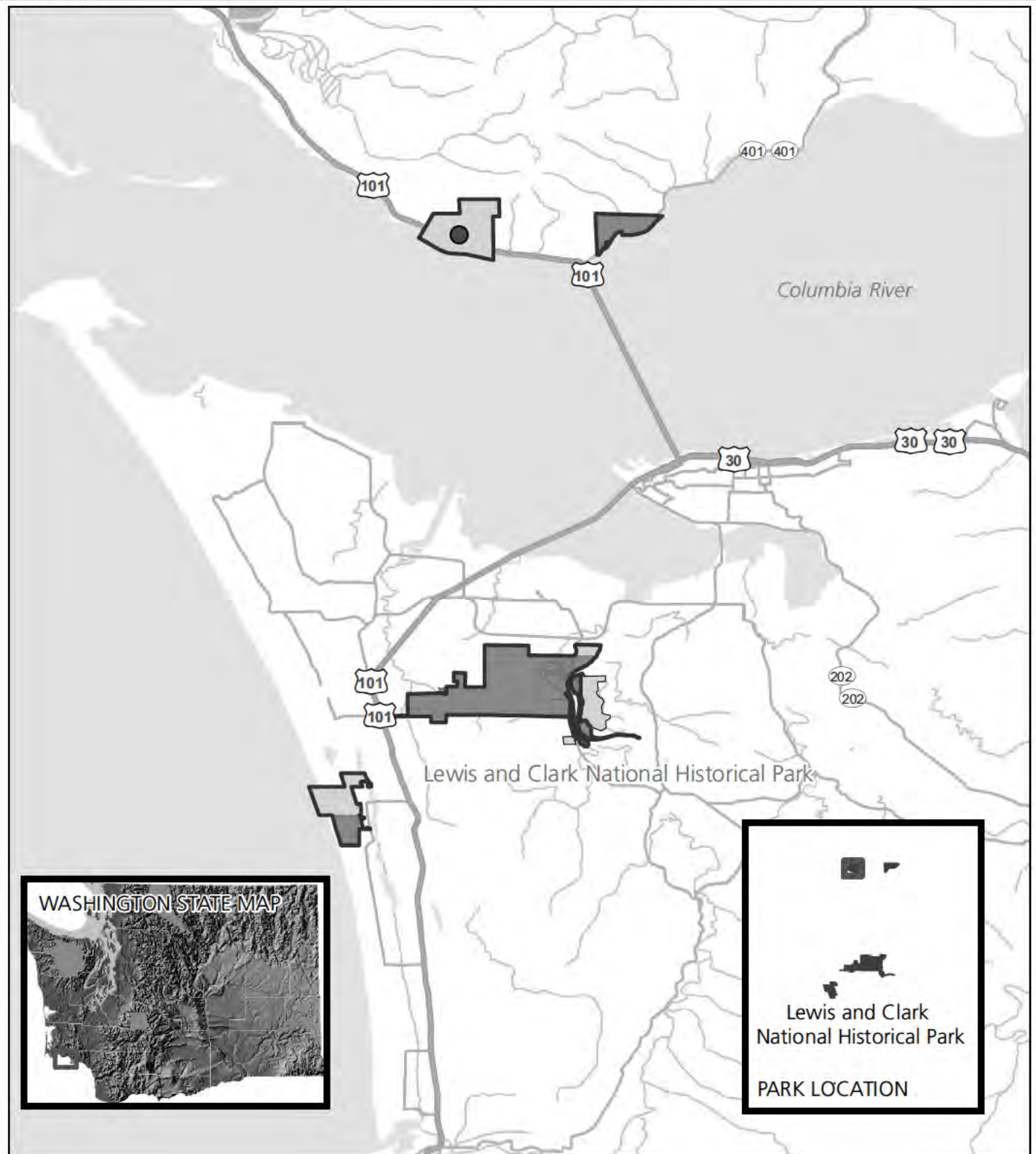
Please let us know if you have any questions or would like a briefing to discuss, otherwise we'll be looking for your ok ahead of the Jan 8th deadline to POB.

Thanks,

Jessica Bowron
Comptroller
National Park Service
(o) 202-513-7138
(c) 202-280-8329

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Washington

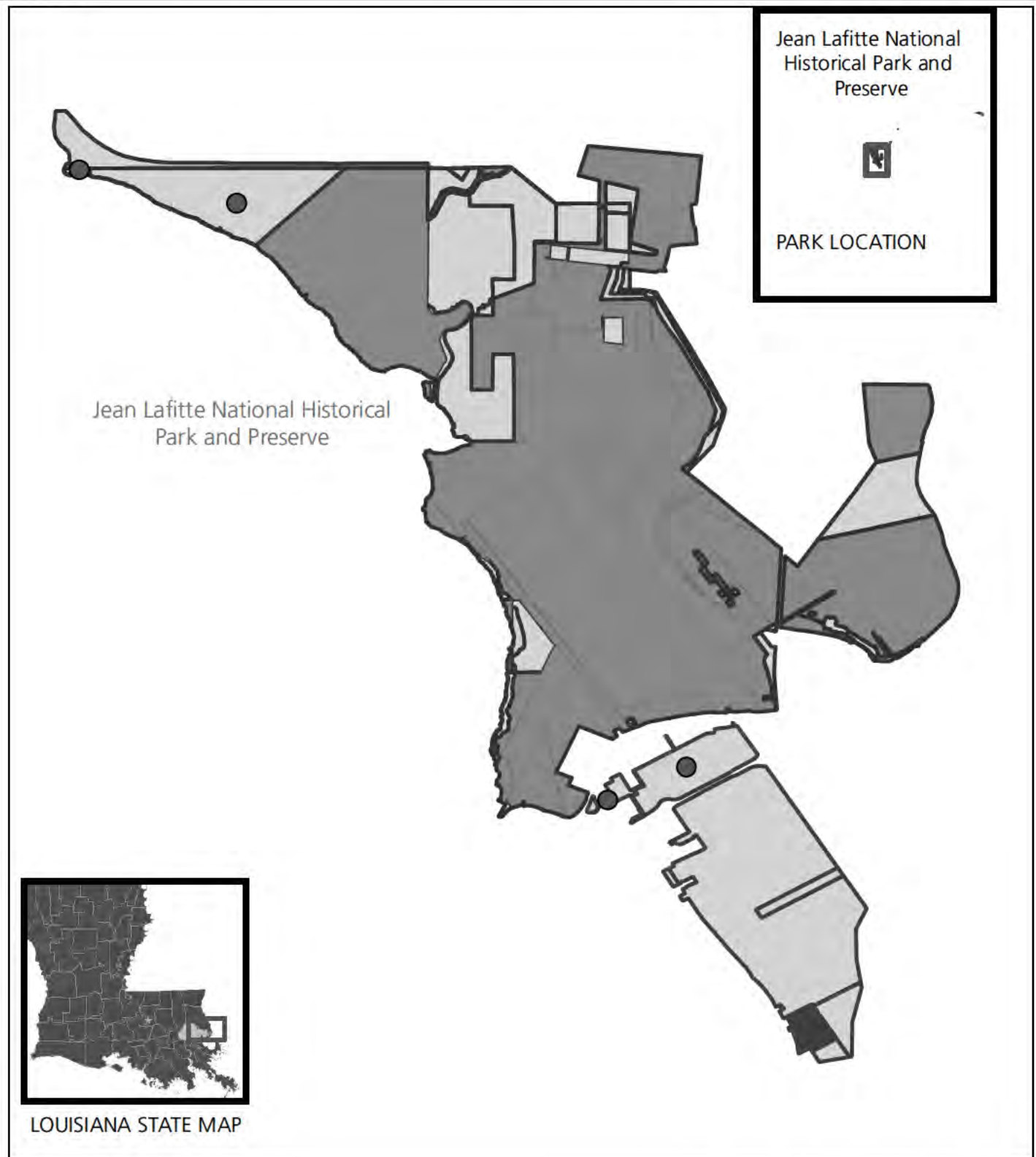
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

0 2 4 8 Miles

- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only

JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE National Park Service
Louisiana U.S. Department of the Interior



LOUISIANA STATE MAP



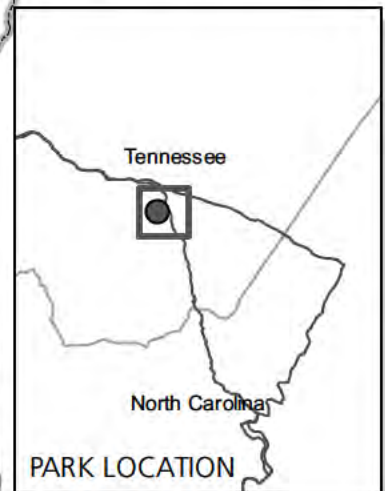
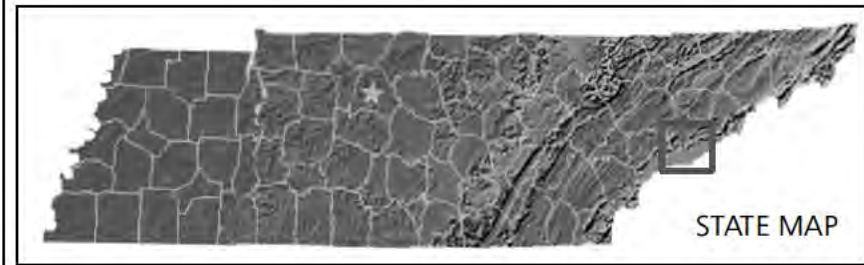
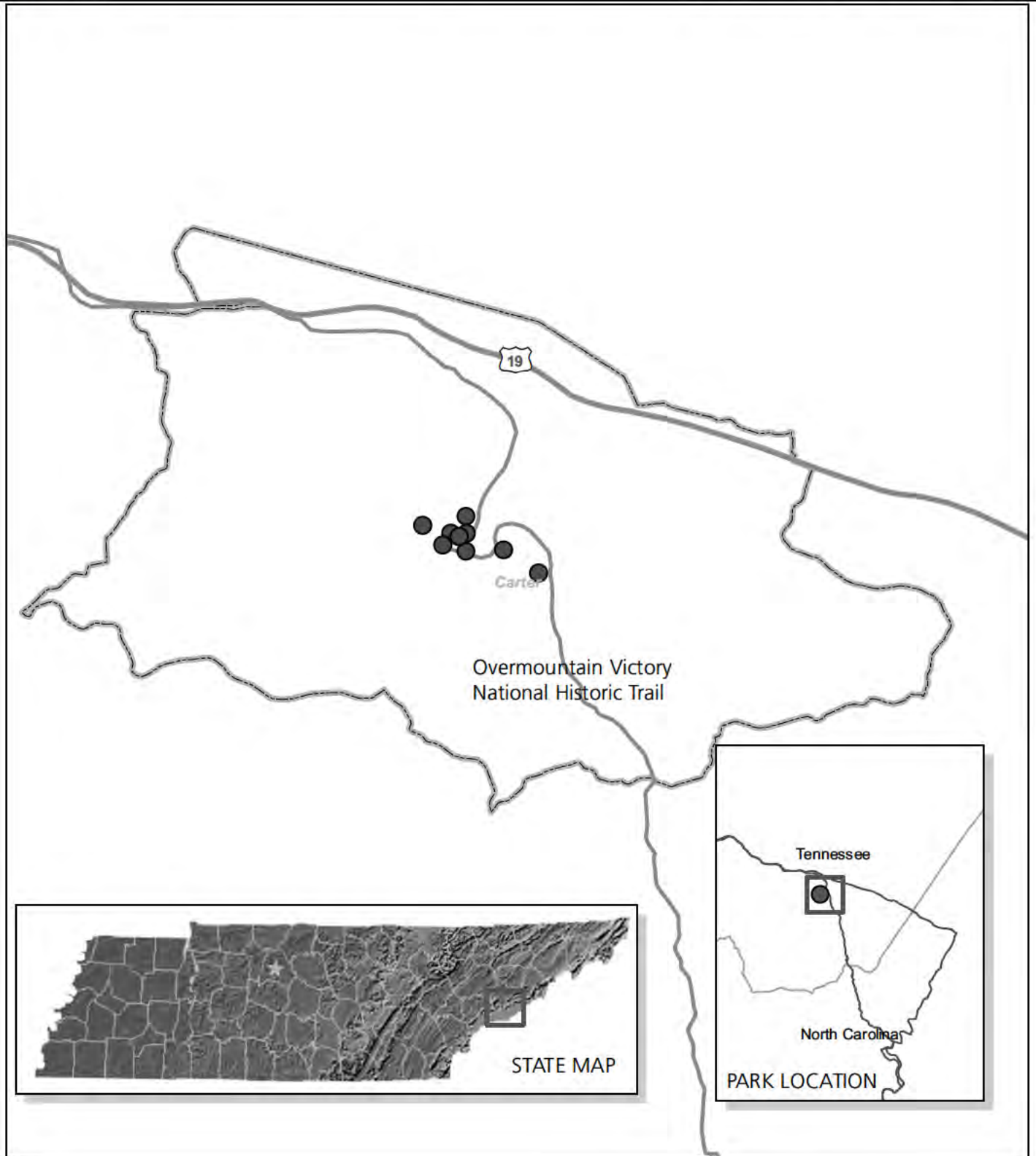
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- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Tennessee

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



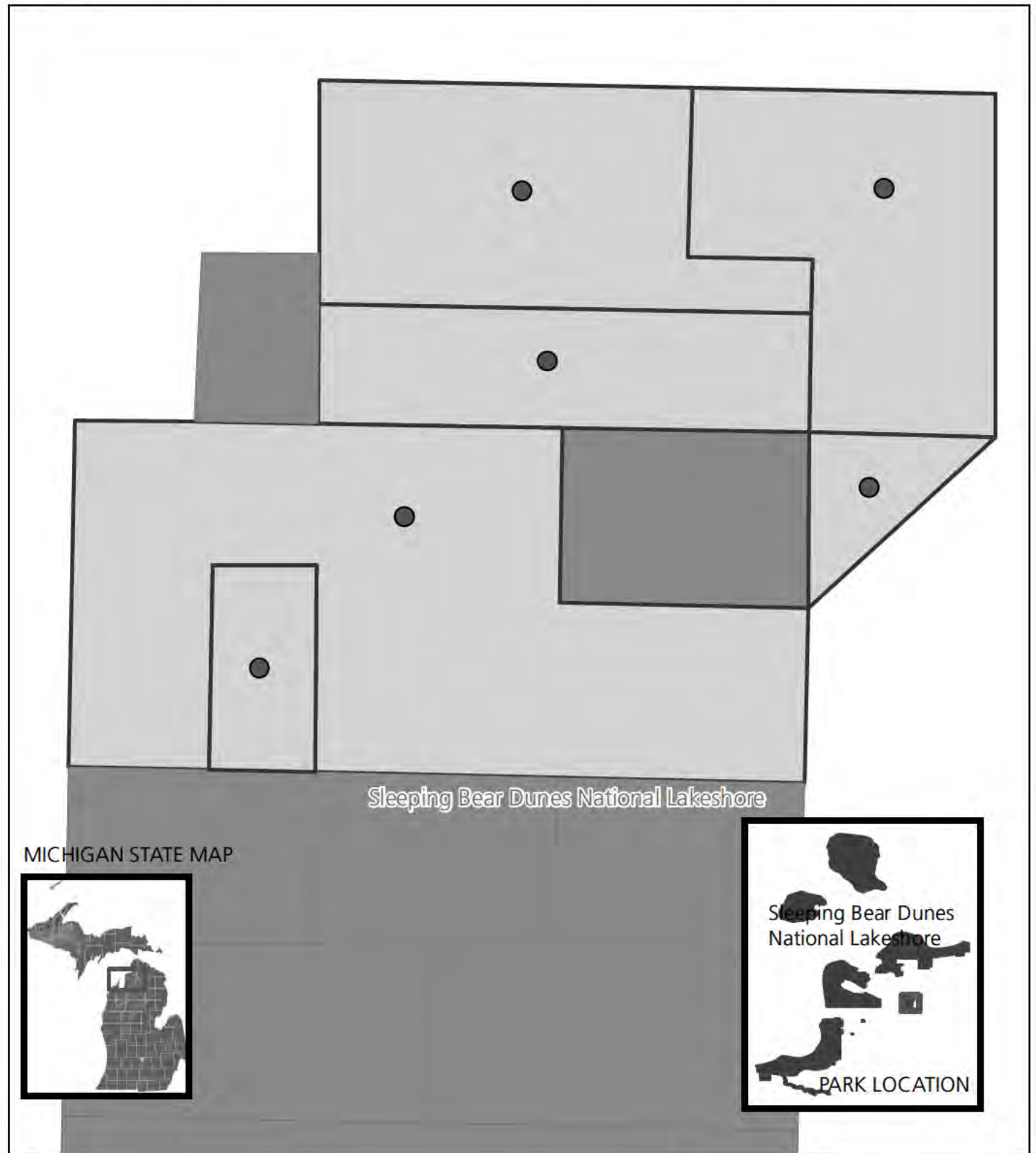
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- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non-Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Michigan

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



MICHIGAN STATE MAP



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



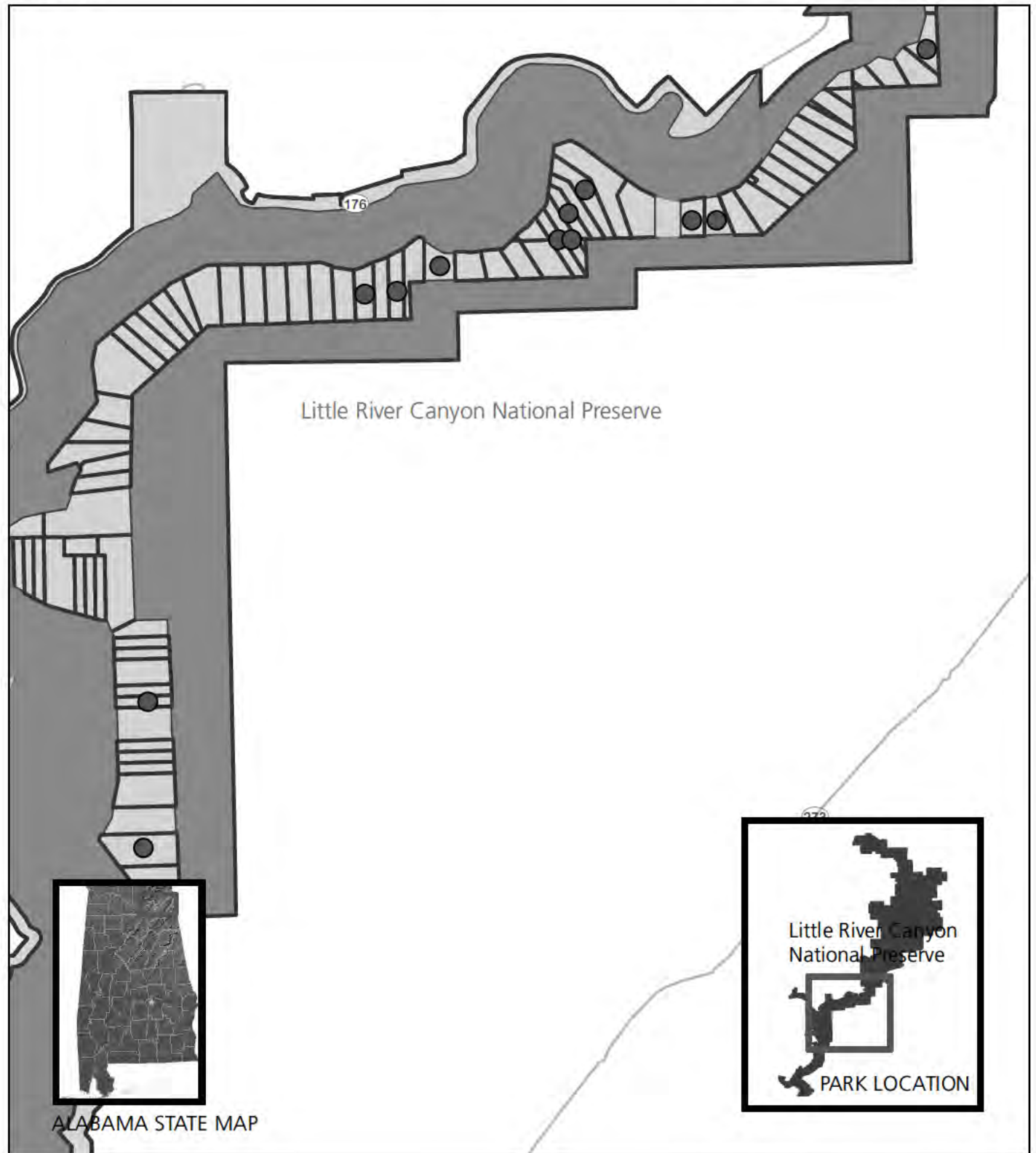
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- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

LITTLE RIVER CANYON NATIONAL PRESERVE

Alabama

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

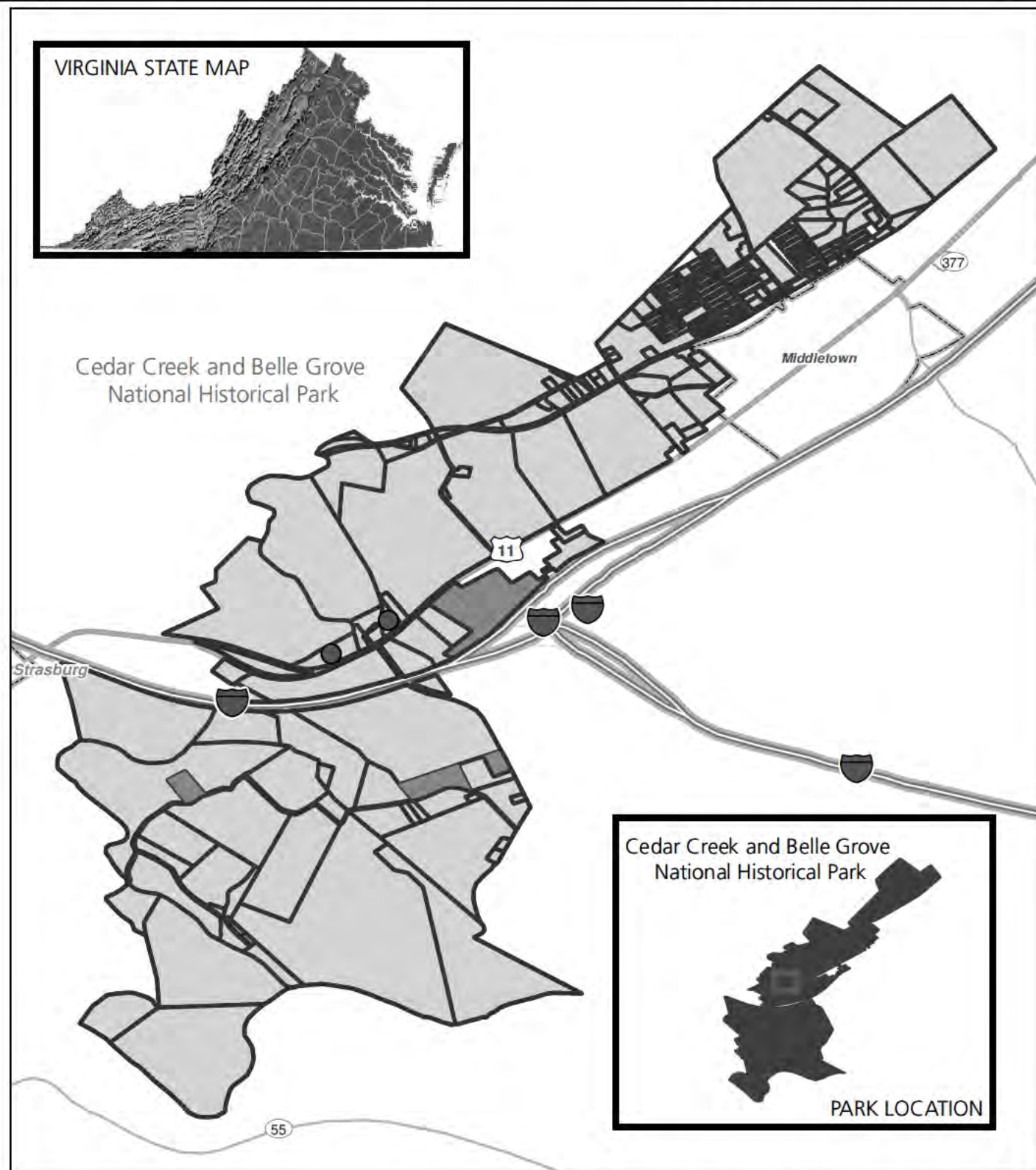


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CEDAR CREEK AND BELLE GROVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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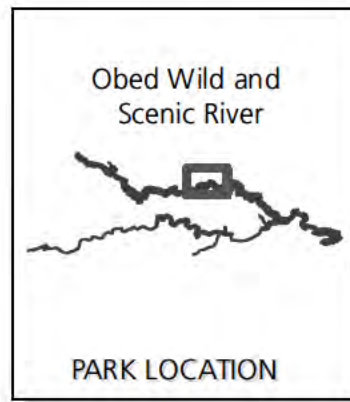
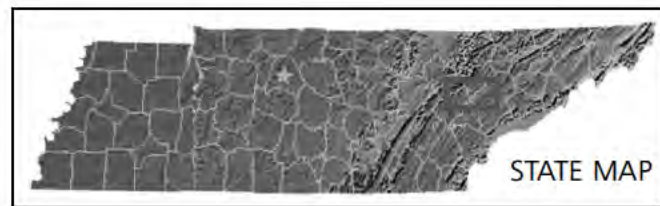
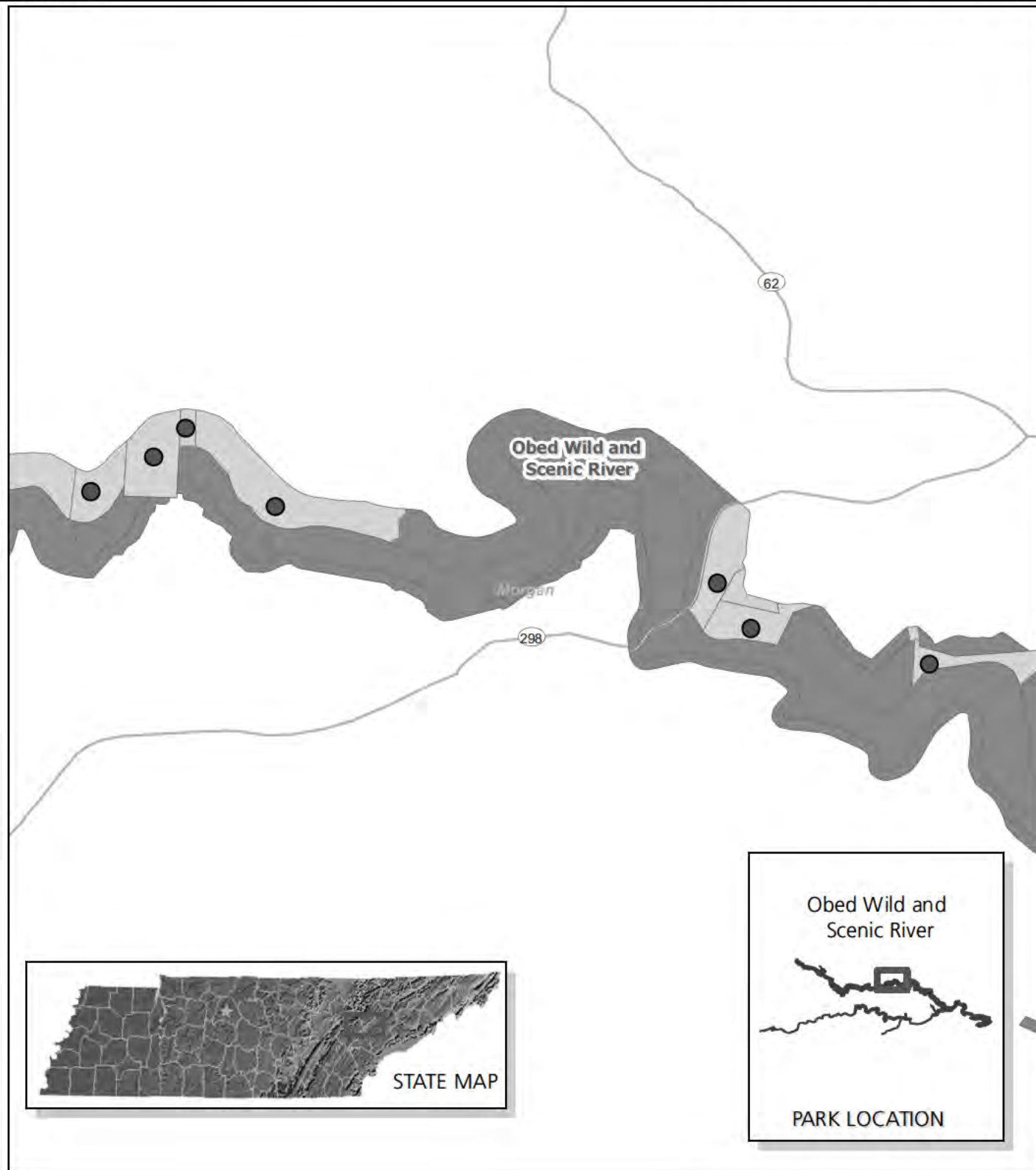
- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION - FY 2019 BUDGET REQUEST (Current)

OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Tennessee

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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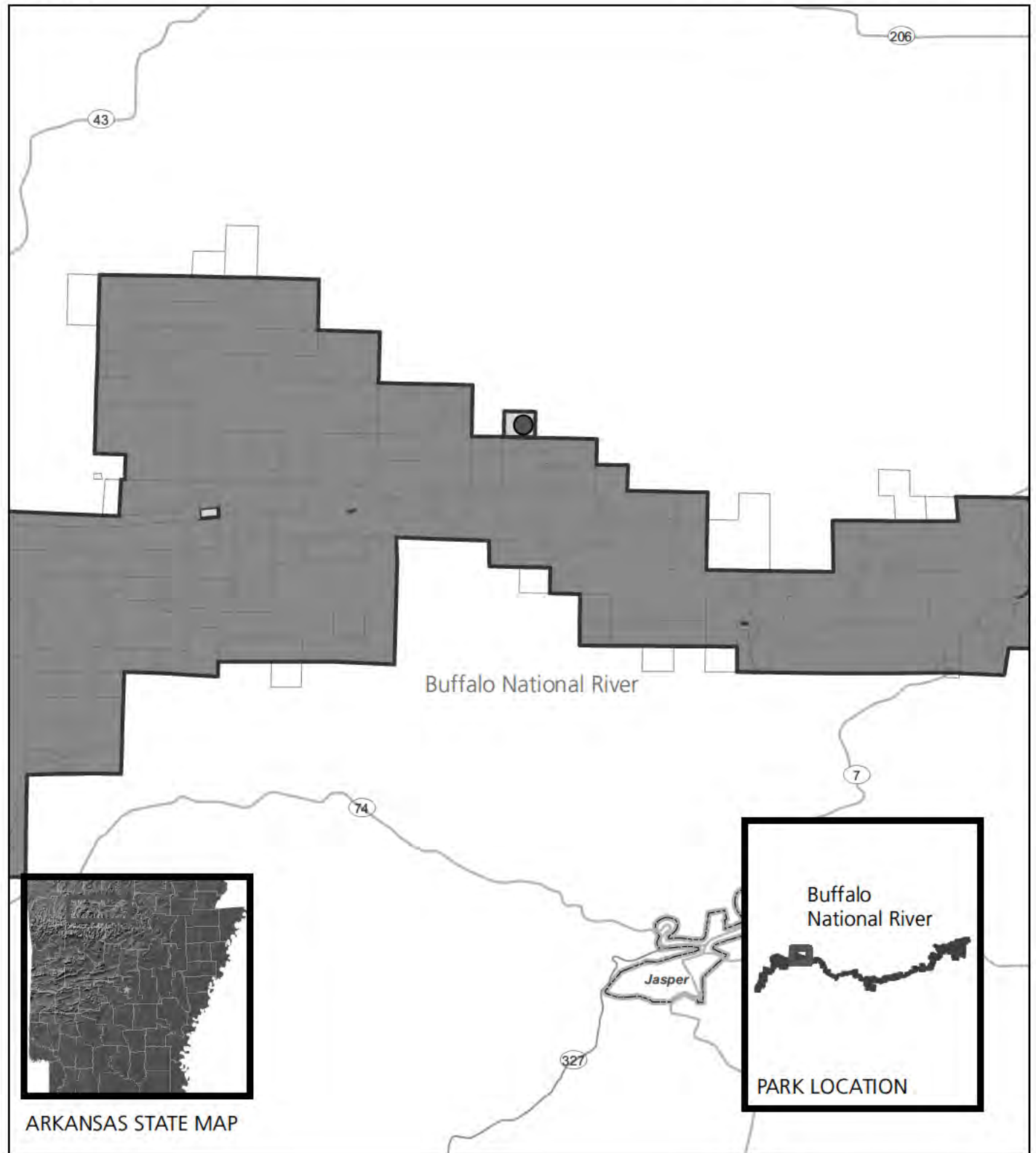
- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non-Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

Arkansas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

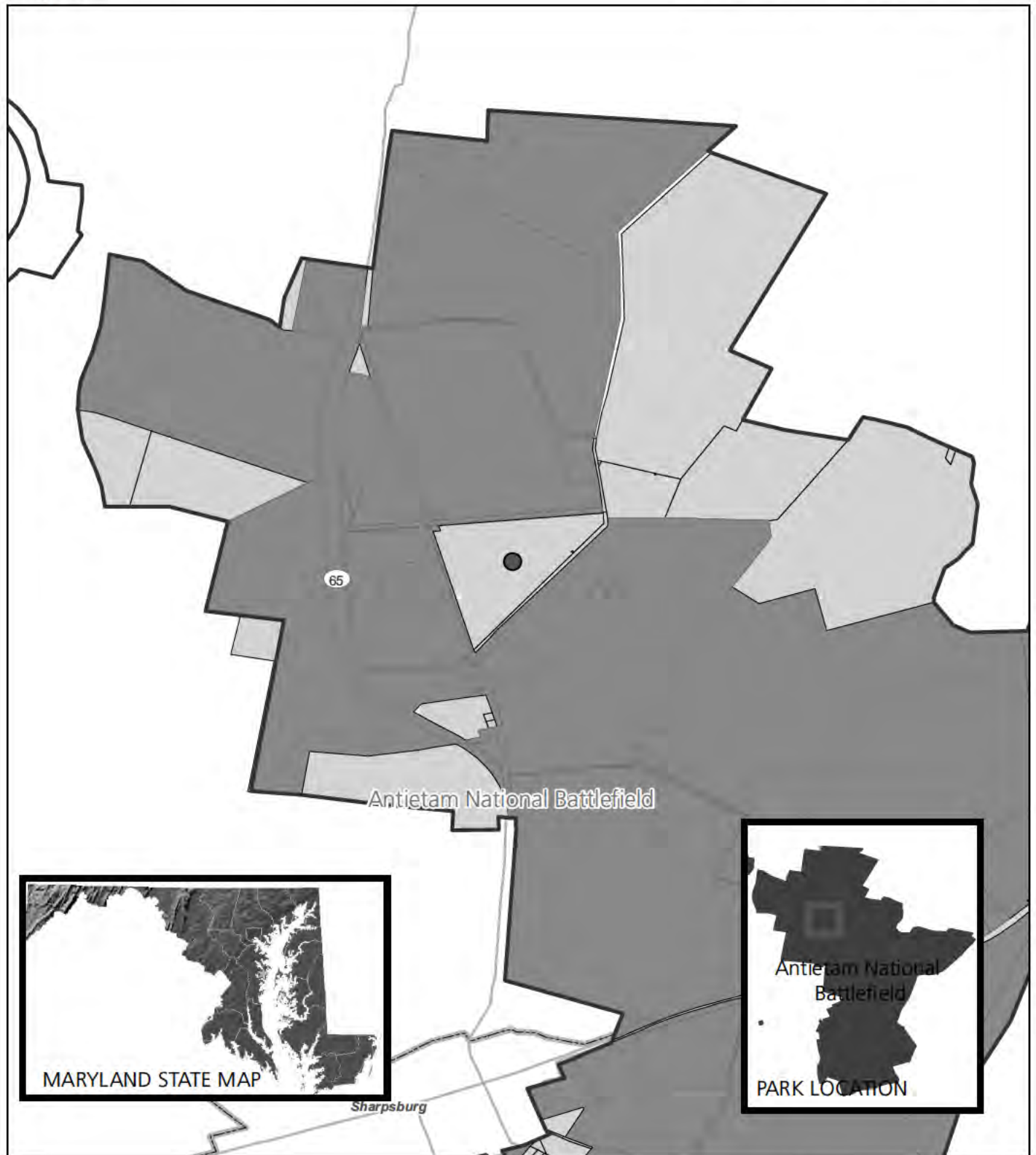


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Antietam National Battlefield

Maryland

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



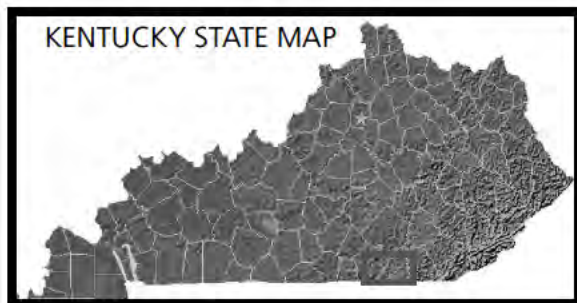
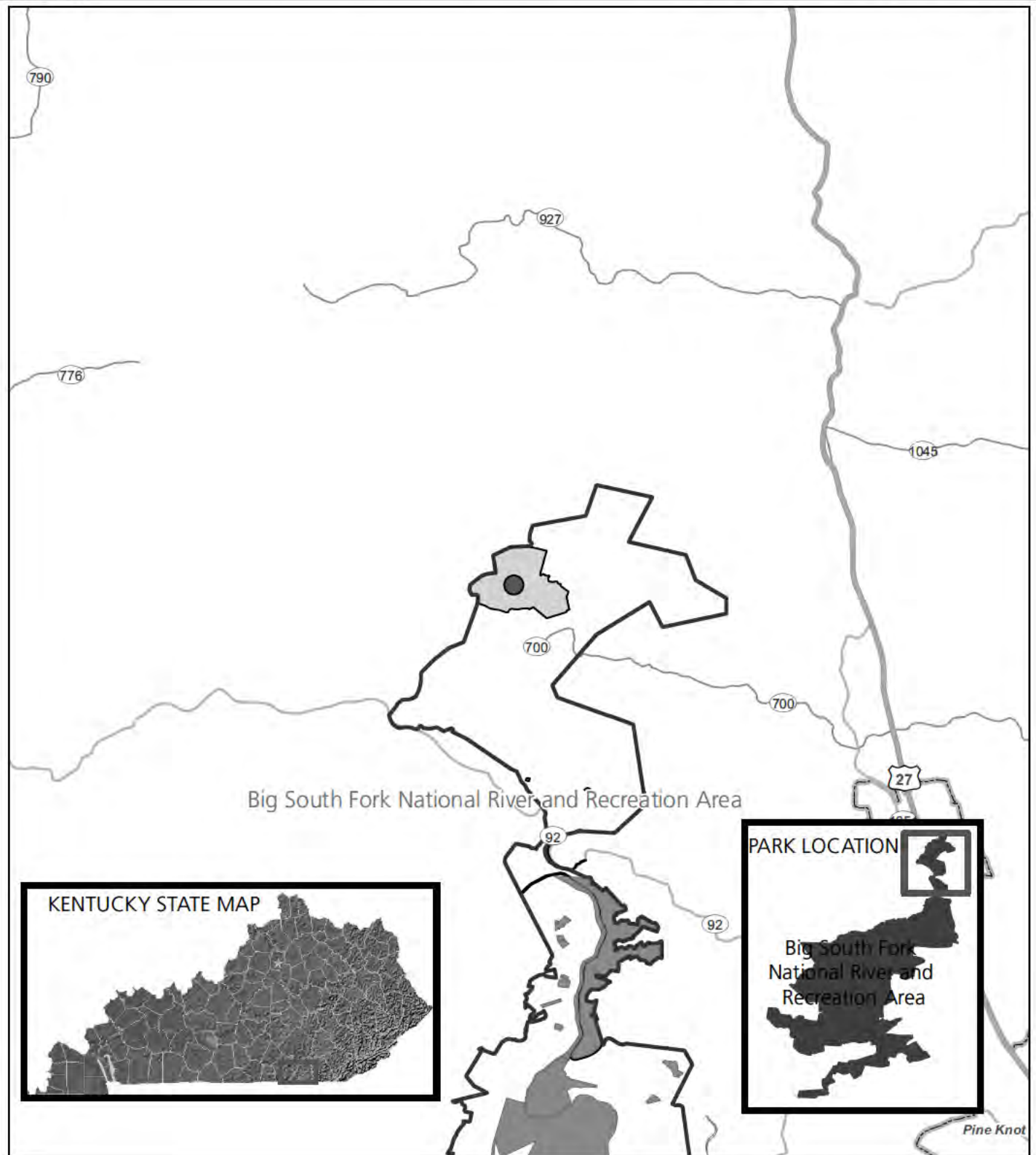
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- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

Kentucky

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



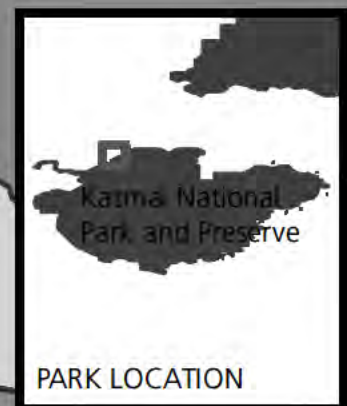
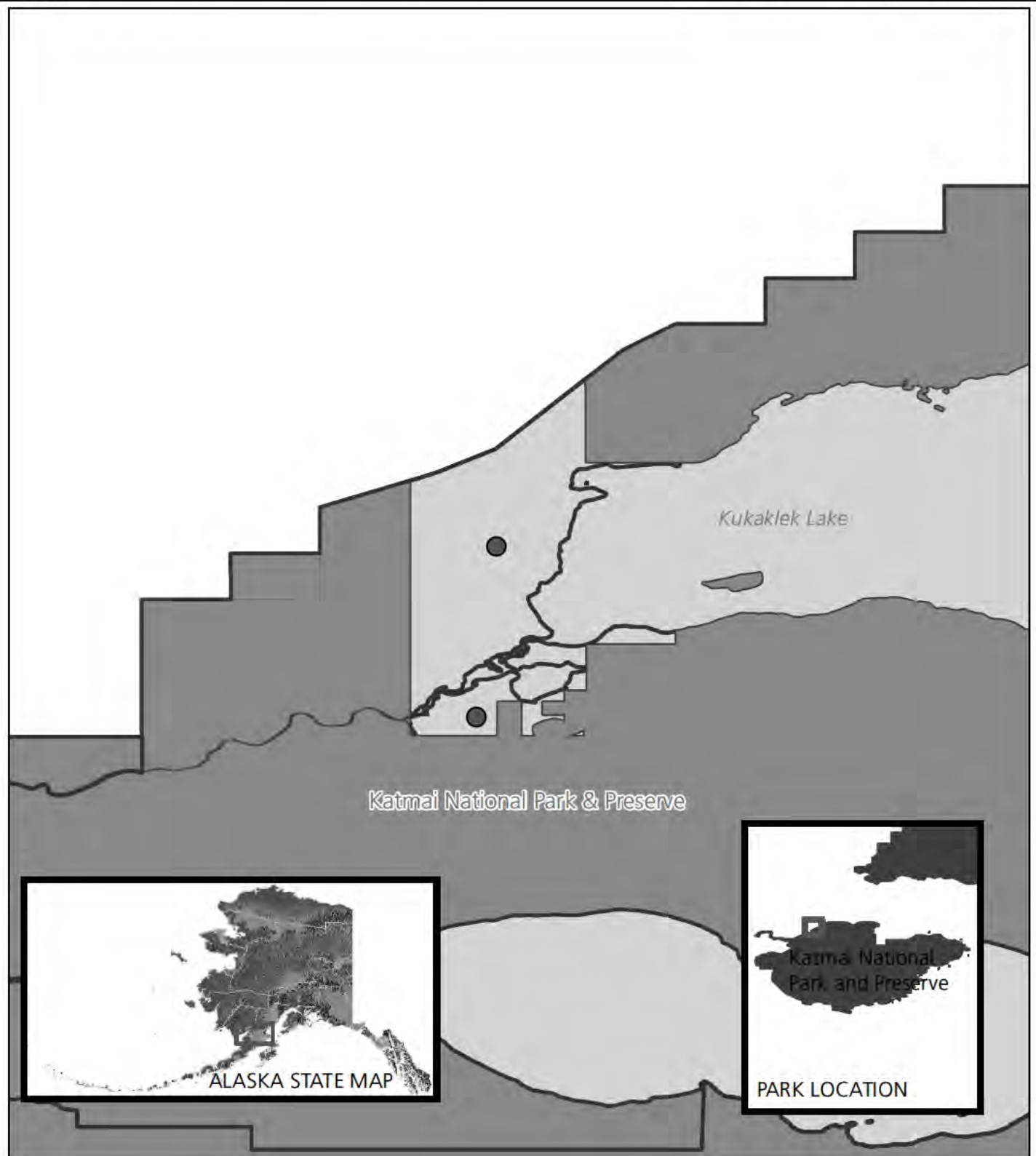
0 1 2 4 Miles

- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Alaska

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



0 2 4 8 Miles

- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve

4 tracts, 4,476 acres

Jean Lafitte NHPP was established by Congress in 1978 "for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations, for preservation of significant examples of natural and historical resources of the Mississippi Delta region, and to provide for their interpretation in such manner as to portray the development of cultural diversity in the region." The acquisition of these tracts directly supports the purpose of the park's establishment, as well as the NPS Organic Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. These properties are part of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary, the largest and most productive, but most threatened, estuary in North America.

The Fleming Plantation, which is part of this request, includes former agricultural fields (now reverted to forest) which were worked by slaves until the Civil War and Emancipation and thereafter worked by sharecroppers. The plantation backlands also include baldcypress swamps home to neotropical migrants, and fresh to intermediate marshes important as nursery areas for estuarine species, including those of commercial importance, and for wintering waterfowl. The tracts about the Lafitte Nature Park with its two miles of boardwalks, and buffer the levee system for the town of Jean Lafitte. The area is near the outfall area of the Mid-Barataria (Myrtle Grove) Mississippi River Diversion, a project designed to restore ecosystem function to the upper Barataria Estuary under the congressionally authorized and funded Louisiana Coastal Area Plan and the State of Louisiana's 2017 "Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast". The project just received significant funding for engineering and design. Once completed, the diversion should help stabilize and restore marsh to the south of the Fleming Plantation, thereby helping protect the site and any additional investments in restoration there. Fleming provides the viewshed for visitors crossing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on a high rise bridge coming from New Orleans to Lafitte by car. The Churchill Farms tracts, included in this request, also contain freshwater marsh hydrologically linked to downstream estuarine systems. A long-term USGS scientific assessment and analysis established that the *flotant* or floating marsh community of the preserve is one of the finest examples of this rare plant community known, part of one of only four such large estuarine floating freshwater marsh communities in the world. The floating marshes of the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary are the only example in the United States, and those located within the Barataria Preserve are the only such marshes in the NPS system. These systems are fragile, and a shoreline protection project at the park proposed by the Louisiana Technical Implementation Group as part of the natural resource damage assessment process for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill will also be funded for engineering and design, and would be facilitated by the Churchill Farms acquisition.

The 3,476 acre Fleming Plantation represents a significant potential expansion of federal jurisdiction in the middle of the Barataria Basin, which has been, and remains, the focus of intense coastal restoration efforts by a large and diverse group of interagency, NGO, and private partners, including the NPS. The 1,000 acre Churchill Farms area represents one of the last large acquisitions within the authorized boundary of the Barataria Preserve, and is contiguous with lands already acquired in the park. The proximity of the parcels to Jean Lafitte and New Orleans make the tracts ideal for resource based recreation, fishing, boating, canoeing, birding, wildlife photography, etc. Public ownership would ensure conservation, restoration, and public access.

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

1 tract, 356 acres

The Lewis and Clark National Historical Park preserves, restores and interprets key historic, cultural, scenic and natural resources throughout the lower Columbia River area associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition's arrival at and exploration of the Pacific coast, and commemorates the 1805-1806 winter encampment at Fort Clatsop. Station Camp is the location where, in 1805, Lewis and Clark achieved the principle purpose of their expedition--to see the Pacific Ocean. It is also considered significant because this is the first time in recorded history an Indian woman (Sacagawea) and a black

man (York) were allowed to participate in casting their votes and have a say in choosing where the group would spend the winter.

The requested acquisition is property currently owned by the McGowan Family Properties LLC that consist of members with varying interest in . Some members are interested in preserving their legacy and others would prefer to sell to a developer and capitalize on their investment return. It has taken the NPS more than 10 years to cultivate the acquisition of this project. The acquisition of this property is ripe, while the motivation is there to sell a conservation easement and 52-acres in fee to the NPS.

This is the largest remaining private ownership on the Washington side of the Columbia River for the Lewis and Clark NHP unit. The proposed acquisition is scenic easement with a small amount to be acquired in fee. The 52 acres to be acquired in fee is for the purpose of constructing a trail that will connect to Fort Columbia State Parks and Recreation property. It is important to complete the acquisition of this property as a commitment has been made to the community and the Park has already obtained the necessary funding to construct the trail and to enhance the current interpretative site for that area.

Little River Canyon National Preserve 12 tracts, 80.70 acres

The Little River is one of the nation's longest rivers that forms and flows for most of its length atop a mountain. Then it plunges into the Cumberland Plateau at the head of Little River Canyon. Beginning at 1,900 feet above sea level on Lookout Mountain, a flat-top mountain, the Little River ends at 540 feet above sea-level at Weiss Lake. The result is one of the most extensive canyon and gorge systems in the eastern United States and one of the South's clearest, wildest waterways. Congress added Little River Canyon National Preserve to the National Park System in 1992 to protect 14,000 acres of the 199-square-mile Little River watershed. The canyon includes a variety of rock expanses, benches, bluffs, taluses, rocky noses, and sand terraces which provide a myriad of moisture regimes that enhance the scenic beauty of the canyon. The area excels in terms of biologic and geologic features and primitive recreational opportunities. There are 148 rare and endangered species and currently 179 known archeological sites in the Preserve. The rim contains select examples of both unique and typical plant community types where outcrops of sandstone support prime examples of successional communities from shallow pools to shrub zones along the periphery. The historic places associated with Cherokee Indians and their removal in 1838 occurred in this location.

The lands and waters are well suited for recreational and scientific use. The Preserve's spectacular views attract visitors who engage in hiking, photography, bird watching and other recreational opportunities. It is estimated that more than 145 species of birds have been observed in the preserve and more than 105 are migratory. There are 47 known species of fish within the river including the globally imperiled aquatic animal species, the blue shiner, which is a federally listed threatened species. In addition there are 74 documented species of herpetofauna and 32 species of mammals including the federally listed gray bat and northern longeared bat. In addition to wildlife watching and admiring plant life, Little River Canyon National Preserve is one of the top destinations for rock climbers and expert kayakers in the southeastern United States. The NPS was contacted by a representative of The Great Eastern Trail to route the trail through the Preserve.

This acquisition request is to purchase tracts or conservation easements, depending on the what the willing sellers would like to convey, that will help protect and preserve the magnificent views of Little River Canyon National Preserve, also called the "Grand Canyon of the East." This is Alabama's largest national park unit and protects the most extensive canyon system of the Cumberland Plateau. Since the 1990's some landowners within the Canyon View Forest Subdivision on the east rim have built residential structures including multi-story houses that obstruct the view of Little River Canyon National Preserve. For example, at Canyon View, 1 of 8 overlooks on the Rim Road is a 3800 square-foot, 3-story house on the edge of the canyon. In 2004, The Birmingham News reported that house was ..."the one that shocked

many, reminding conservationists that when the federal government bought the canyon for a preserve, it didn't buy the view." As a response to the housing encroachment, at the time U.S. Alabama Senators Sessions and Shelby sponsored a boundary expansion in March 2009, to protect the canyon view by adding 1,650 acres located on the east rim of the Preserve. Public Law 111-11 allows the federal government to receive donated property or to purchase property from willing sellers in the expanded boundary.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park **9 tracts, 2,497.36 acres**

Black Canyon of the Gunnison was proclaimed a national monument in 1933 to protect and preserve the Gunnison River and surrounding landscape, which has been created by over two million years of weathering to sculpt this vertical wilderness of rock, water and sky. The Painted Wall, a sheer drop of 2,250 feet, is the highest cliff in Colorado. Two of the tracts in this request form the scenic backdrop to the canyon and are easily seen from the South Rim entrance road, East Portal Road, and the South Rim drive and overlooks. Four other tracts serve as the gateway to Red Rock Canyon, an extremely scenic side-canyon to the Black Canyon offering unique hiking and fishing opportunities to the Gunnison River. Combined, all nine inholding tracts provide important movement corridors as well as year-round habitat for many wildlife species (elk, deer, bear, mountain lion, an assortment of birds and other animals).

While the primary purpose of the acquisition is to protect scenic and wildlife values, the existing two-track roads have been considered as potential locations for trails, providing opportunities for moderate hiking, a resource that is very limited on the South Rim, in a setting that offers spectacular views of the southern San Juan Mountains and the Uncompahgre Plateau. Additionally, the previous landowner developed a well on the property for his livestock that supplies enough water to support park facilities on the South Rim. Purchase of the property and adapting the well to supply the park visitor center, campground, administrative offices, and employee housing would save thousands of dollars in annual operating expense currently incurred to truck water to the South Rim. Not having to truck water will also eliminate a significant employee safety hazard. Acquiring the property and adapting the well to supply park facilities, as compared to drilling a new well, would lead to a savings of approximately \$57,000 plus elimination of the existing, recurring annual cost of hauling water to supply South Rim needs of \$16,000/year.

Purchase of these tracts would allow the development of an existing well to provide water to park facilities, allow visitor access to these lands for recreational purposes, eliminate private hunting, reduce livestock impacts within the park, and simplify management of hiking access to the world class fishing opportunities on the Gunnison River through Red Rock Canyon.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park **2 tracts, 22 acres**

The park is the site of the Battle of Cedar Creek, fought October 19, 1864, and also contains Belle Grove Plantation, one of the few plantations in the Shenandoah Valley. These two tracts of land represent prime opportunities for the park to not only acquire core battlefield land at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP but also use this land to expand visitor services. Both sites lie within the core battlefield area of the 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek and are situated along Cedar Creek and modern day Route 11, part of the area where the Confederate Army crossed Cedar Creek in a surprise attack on the Union Army. The road trace of the old, historic Valley Pike crosses the property. The tract also contains historic remnants of mills, creek fords and bridge foundations, and other historic resources related to the old Valley Pike, early economic industries, and the Battle of Cedar Creek. The park would reduce the size of the existing campground and remove much of the infrastructure, using the site as a picnic ground and creek access neither of which is currently available to park visitors.

These parcels are clearly visible upon entering the park from Strasburg and detract from the historic viewshed and overall park experience. Acquisition of these parcels would allow for rehabilitation of the historic landscape along Route 11.

These properties are located within the "Core Battlefield Area" of the Battle of Cedar Creek making it a nationally significant resource. The Battle of Cedar Creek was the last major battle fought in the Shenandoah Valley and contributed to the re-election of President Lincoln. This battlefield was identified as having the highest priority for protection in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields.

During the Battle of Cedar Creek, there was significant combat and troop movements on, and across, these properties. These resources are listed in the park's General Management Plan and draft foundation plan as fundamental resources and are also directly related to the primary reason for the park's designation.

The campground tract sits on the east side of Cedar Creek and contains important natural and cultural features. It sits across the creek from the historically significant Stickley Farm, mill foundations, and road traces from the original Valley Pike. This tract contains foundations related to the historic Valley Pike bridge crossing and mill operations.

The park's GMP calls for the creation of interpretive trails connecting with partners' preserved property. Obtaining these two tracts would facilitate connections and vastly expand visitor access to park areas. It would also allow for visitor access to Cedar Creek for recreational purposes. Cedar Creek is also important for its rich cultural resources including historic artifacts including creek fords, mill traces, and mill foundations.

Obed Wild and Scenic River **7 tracts, 194.8 acres**

Established to protect and preserve 45 miles of free-flowing streams, the varied wildlife and plant resources, and the rugged character of this area, the river was designated for outstandingly remarkable aesthetics, wildlife, fish and recreational, cultural, ecological, geological and aquatic values. These seven tracts are critical for the protection of the resources, viewshed and recreational opportunities of the most scenic and popular stream sections in the entire park. These tracts are imminently developable and structures built in these locations would destroy the otherwise pristine and wilderness-like experience that visitors currently enjoy at the bottom of the Clear Creek canyon. They include property on the rim of the Clear Creek gorge and on both sides of Clear Creek, and are essential to the completion of the park's proposed 20 mile loop trail, which will serve as the centerpiece of the park's trail system. Some of the tracts also occupy a half mile of road frontage along the busiest road in the park and control the viewshed of the park's most heavily used river access point. One tract protects the single most popular paddling section along Clear Creek and two others dominate a significant portion of the heavily paddled Barnett to Jett run. Taken altogether, the purchase of these seven tracts allows for nearly complete protection of the resources which Congress intended to preserve through the Obed's amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In doing so, these acquisitions provide the missing pieces to the most popular whitewater runs within the park, providing canoeists and kayakers complete continuity of a primitive, wilderness-like experience.

The dramatic and rugged gorges of the Obed Wild and Scenic River are nationally significant resources and are truly unique as they stand among the wildest and most primitive areas remaining east of the Rocky Mountains. No other canyon offers such spectacular scenery while simultaneously providing visitors with the sense that they are in deep wilderness, far removed from the bustle of everyday life that has become increasingly uncommon in modern society. Visitors come from all over the world to climb its overhanging cliff faces and navigate its highly challenging whitewater. These sections of Clear Creek support an extremely rich array of plant and animal life, including 28 state and/or Federally listed species.

These stream sections are formally designated as Critical Habitat under the Endangered Species Act, as amended in 1973. In 1999, the State of Tennessee designated these sections "Outstanding Natural Resource Waters" with Tier III protection, the highest designation that can be conferred upon bodies of water

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail **9 tracts, 77.35 acres**

Stretching 330 miles through four states (Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina) the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVVI) traces the route used by patriot militia during the pivotal Kings Mountain campaign of 1780. This acquisition request is for the Shelving Rock Site, which is located in Carter County, TN. It is the location of the September 26, 1780, encampment of the Overmountain Militia from Abingdon, VA and Sullivan County, TN on their campaign to track down British Major Patrick Ferguson and his Loyalist Militia during the American Revolution. The site is well documented and attributed to the ultimate success of the patriot forces as the unique geologic features, which gives the site its name, was used by the men to keep their gunpowder dry during inclement weather on their campaign to Kings Mountain. This site is listed as one of 15 sites in the OVVI Comprehensive Management Plan (1982) as certifiable resources if appropriate steps are taken to protect the site.

This property is located just two miles from Roan Mountain State Park in Carter County, TN. The property is also located near the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The Tennessee Historical Society and the National Park Service have affirmed the historic significance of the site not only for Revolutionary War history, but also as a Native American encampment site, and its use by early settlers, historically called the Nolichucky Settlement, for shelter and protection. As a result, this site has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The rock, in particular, is a critical feature used to tell the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain. This battle led to the ultimate victory against the British Loyalists and is a significant battle in the overall American Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

This resource is the only geologic feature documented where the Overmountain Men were known to have encamped for the specific intent of protecting their limited supply of gunpowder. This property would be preserved as an open space park for those traveling along the OVVI Motor Route and will be maintained by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) and/or TN State Parks Department. It would also be incorporated in the overall master planning of the OVVI non-motorized trail route.

Buffalo National River **1 tract, 40 acres**

The Buffalo River winds through the Arkansas Ozarks and was designated as the nation's first national river in 1972. The Conard Fissure is a world class paleontological site within the boundary of the National River. It is formed in a sinkhole. As such, acquisition of this site will help the park interpret the importance of karst to the public; education being one of the goals of visitor experience to national park sites. Karst is a landscape composed of soluble rock such as limestone or gypsum that is characterized by an abundance of sinkholes, sinking streams, and caves. Karst is vitally important to the health of the national river, and the Conard Fissure is unique in its setting and the natural resources present. In the first decade of the 20th century, Barnum Brown of the American Museum of Natural History excavated the site. The results of his excavation were astounding with nearly 60 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians recorded. Of those, there were two new genera and twenty new species of mammal. The mammal fauna included musk ox, saber tooth cat, peccary, elk, lynx, timber wolf, giant hare, and mountain lion. The site was never completely excavated, so there remain many fossils cemented by a matrix of calcium carbonate. The property also contains a great example of an Ashe's juniper forest. The property lies adjacent to a very picturesque box canyon tributary to the Buffalo River.

Protection of this canyon, and part of its drainage basin is important toward protecting the water quality of the Buffalo River.

This proposed acquisition will protect the Conard Fissure, and its trove of Pleistocene fossil remains. The site is very well known to amateur paleontologists. In addition to paleontological resources, the site has archeological resources left behind by Native Americans. Protection and interpretation of these resources, is an important management objective of Buffalo National River. Acquisition would also protect a very important glade in the area that is full of rare plant species tracked by Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. It will further protect a beautiful little canyon incised into the bedrock by a tributary of the Buffalo River. The National River was established to preserve the free-flowing nature of the Buffalo River and to conserve the natural and cultural resources and the scenic and scientific values. The Conard Fissure is both a significant National Natural Landmark eligible natural resource, and a National Register of Historic Places Eligible cultural resource. It may also be a National Historic Landmark eligible resource. The Fissure deserves the protections of the Paleontological Resource Protection Act and the Archeological Resource Protection Act. The state tracked plants and plant communities on the property would be managed as if they were federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Old River Trail is a shared hiking/equestrian trail in the area that runs along the Buffalo River. Acquisition of this property would allow the NPS to eliminate two river crossings from this trail. Over time, this change would improve visitor access to the natural landscape and increase safety for trail users. The river crossings are subject to flooding. The trails tend to incise in the floodplain soils, resulting in sediment washing off the trails into the river. This runoff can be expected to be higher in E coli bacteria, nitrates, phosphates, and suspended sediment than natural overland flow, so removing the trail crossings will have a long term positive impact on water quality of the Buffalo River. Mussel beds are often located at shoals or riffles. These trail crossings are almost always located at the head of shoals. Impact from sedimentation and pollution related to the trails can directly impact the mussel populations in the river. The Buffalo River in this location is listed as Critical Habitat for the federally threatened Rabbitsfoot Mussel. Reducing the number of river crossings this trail has will have a long term positive impact upon native mussel populations.

El Malpais National Monument

1 tract, 2,885.16 acres

El Malpais is a spectacular volcanic area featuring cinder cones, a 17-mile-long lava tube system and ice caves. The area is also rich in ancient Pueblo and Navajo history. The Ice Caves/Bandera Volcano or the "Candelaria Property" inholding has been the park's highest priority for acquisition since the park was established in 1987. This tract contains the park's highest concentration of nationally significant resources, including the Ice Cave, Bandera Crater and numerous spatter cones, lava tube caves and historic structures. The parcel would support substantial visitor use and include visitor suitable lands.

The landowners (a large family of heirs) have worked with the Wilderness Land Trust (WLT) to ready the property for sale and federal protection since 2012. The heirs are highly protective of the resources on their lands; they have been good stewards and realize they do not have the capacity to monitor resource conditions other than those in the commercially developed part of the property. They have acknowledged that this poses a valid and immediate threat to the vast cultural and natural resources of the property through continuous visitor access. This issue persists each year on a regular and continual basis. Additionally, the threat to resources has taken on a higher priority in that some of the current property landowners do not want to continue with the commercial operation as they are approaching retirement age and the business is labor intensive. The family's younger generation is not interested in operating it now or in the future. They have a great desire to sell this land to the NPS.

Cultural resources are abundant on park lands adjacent to this property - archeological sites range from Paleo Indian lithics to Ancestral Puebloan ruins, to historical sites like logging camps. It is highly likely that similar cultural resources exist within this inholding. This core area will provide the monument

numerous front-country and accessible interpretive and recreational opportunities that were originally envisioned. NPS ownership has the potential to dramatically increase recreational opportunities; visitors can currently only enjoy a small area of the tract. Hikers on federally owned lands have to stop at the property fence and cannot cross. Wildlife abounds in this area and most species can jump or cross the fences (elk, deer, pronghorn). There would be expanded protection of wildlife habitat and travel corridors through federal ownership. The connectivity and continuity of the landscape through acquisition of this property would help dramatically in the overall landscape of the monument, as well as, the significant impact it would make in land management efficiencies. Further, this tract provides a feasibly improved route for the increasingly popular Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that now requires hikers to walk in the right-of-way of busy state highway 53 for about 5 miles and has seriously impacted the range of visitor use opportunities envisioned at the time of designation and in the GMP.

Recreational facilities proposed for construction on these tracts include a visitor center, scenic loop road, and a variety of trails, some of which will be wheelchair accessible. There are already two trails leading from the Trading Post - one to Bandera Crater and the other to the Ice Cave, supporting over 44,000 visits per year, which is expected to increase. This tract would provide the broadest possible range of visitor experiences, from wheelchair accessible trails to cross-country wilderness routes for hiking and backpacking.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 6 tracts, 435 acres

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was established to preserve and protect the diverse landscape of quiet rivers, sandy beaches, beech-maple forests, clear lakes, and massive "perched" sand dunes towering up to 460 feet above Lake Michigan's eastern shore. Two off-shore islands offer wilderness tranquility and seclusion and there are many historic sites associated with life along the lake including a lighthouse, life-saving service stations and agricultural landscapes.

These tracts are critical to the protection of the Bow Lakes area of the Lakeshore. The acquisition will enhance recreational opportunities for 1.2 million annual visitors. The 975-acre Bow Lakes area contains excellent examples of ice block lakes and long forested valleys that were formed when the great ice blocks melted. The area includes an outstanding example of a floating leatherleaf bog and prime examples of plant succession, including the bog, an open marl lake, meadows and forest. These glacial features and bog habitats are found nowhere else in the park. This area was specifically identified as a "Resource Preservation Area" when the National Lakeshore's enabling legislation was modified by P.L. 97-361, October 22, 1982.

Acquisition of these tracts will facilitate the development of access from the adjacent K-12 consolidated school campus. A trailhead will be established on school property to support public and student access to the area. The park has a successful partnership with the school and this effort would also serve the environmental programs in place at the school and under development for the Bow Lakes unit. Construction of the Bow Lake trail(s) would be supported by volunteers, the school, and the park. Base funds or Park Partner funds would be used to provide signage, to develop trail maps and to provide staff for trail development. Volunteers have adopted all other trails in the park. The school will adopt the Bow Lakes trail.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area 1 tract, 460 acres

This was the first park designated as both a national river and a national recreation area, reflecting the decision to preserve the area and offer recreational opportunities. Planning and development by U.S. Army Corps of engineers was authorized in May 1974 and final transfer to the National Park Service was settled in August 1991. This significant property encompasses the largest tract remaining that is privately

owned on the Kentucky side of the park. To provide the greatest protection to park resources, a fee purchase (surface and minerals) of this entire tract would be optimal. The tract protects the watershed of Stallion Fork and Alum Creek. This land makes up almost all the view shed from Yahoo Falls Overlook. Yahoo Falls is the most visited overlook on the Kentucky side of the park.

Protection of this tract will result in protection of multiple state and federally listed species as well as species of greatest conservation need listed in Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan. The river frontage part of this property is visible from Alum Ford river access, the park's busiest boat ramp. This property also contains cultural resource sites and several superb river overlooks on the west side of the river.

This exceptional property is subject to poaching, high impact ATV use, marijuana growth and clandestine drug labs. Pollution, property subdivision and residential development are also potential problems due to the tract's location along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Law enforcement is difficult because of access issues and remote location. The property includes approximately 1,551 feet of direct river frontage on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River which is home to 26 documented species of mussels, five of which are federally listed as endangered: Cumberland Elktote, Cumberland Comb Shell, Tan Riffle Shell, Little-wing Pearly and Cumberland Bean Mussel. Although biological surveys have not been completed for the tract itself, multiple rare and sensitive species records exist directly adjacent to this tract including invertebrates (Clifty Covert and Queen Crater snails), vascular plants (Racemed Milkwort, Eastern Sweetshrub and Mercury Spurge) and the Eastern Spotted Skunk a species of greatest conservation need for Kentucky. Two Kentucky Wild Rivers (Rock Creek and the Cumberland River) and two rivers that are candidates for National Wild and Scenic River designation (Marsh Creek and Rock Creek) occur in this area. Further highlighting the importance of this area, in 2004 Marsh Creek was designated as critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for multiple mussel species, including the Cumberland Elktote.

This parcel, which runs from the western boundary to the river, cuts federal ownership in half in the northern portion of the park. This significantly diminishes the utility and protection of the entire area. The purchase of this tract would decrease management costs by consolidating the park's land holdings and have a significant positive impact on open space and connectivity, as these areas would be used for hunting, fishing, camping, exploring and canoeing.

Katmai National Park and Preserve

2 tract, 6,932 acres (easement)

The natural and cultural resources at the west end of Kukaklek Lake and the Alagnak River are of national significance. The basic purposes of Katmai NP&P are protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, maintaining unimpaired water habitat for significant salmon populations, and protecting scenic, geologic, cultural and recreational features. The Alagnak River, a designated National Wild River in the National Wild and Scenic River System begins on this property. With purchase of a conservation easement this area will remain in its natural condition, its scenic integrity will be maintained, and it will be opened to public use. The protection proposed is a conservation easement, rather than fee simple purchase. This will provide for protection of the lands and resources but allow continued traditional uses by the Igiugig Natives. This property will be kept in a natural state, its scenic integrity will be maintained providing continuity of the landscape with surrounding public lands, salmon and wildlife resources will be protected and the property will be opened to public use.

The Igiugig Native Corporation owns the surface estate, and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation owns the subsurface estate of these lands. These lands surround the western end of Kukaklek Lake, where the Alagnak Wild River exits the lake, and extend south and southwest along the Alagnak River for about 2 miles. The primary resource of this area is its wild and undeveloped nature, and its importance to public access to the world class float trip and fishing on the Alagnak Wild River. All five species of Pacific salmon migrate through this area, as do world class rainbow trout. There are ancient and historical archeological sites on these lands. With purchase of a conservation easement this area will remain in its

natural condition, its scenic integrity will be maintained, and it will be opened to public use. Salmon habitat will be protected, thus helping to ensure the perpetuation of the huge red salmon runs of Bristol Bay, that are of such importance ecologically and economically. Purchase of a conservation easement will complete the protection of the entire shoreline of Kukaklek Lake, because the remainder of the lake shore is already in public ownership and NPS management. The unobstructed landscape and viewshed of the shoreline of Kukaklek Lake will be preserved.

Antietam National Battlefield

1 tract, 43.2 acres

Antietam National Battlefield protects the site of the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led to Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

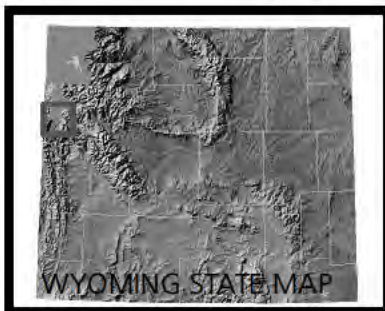
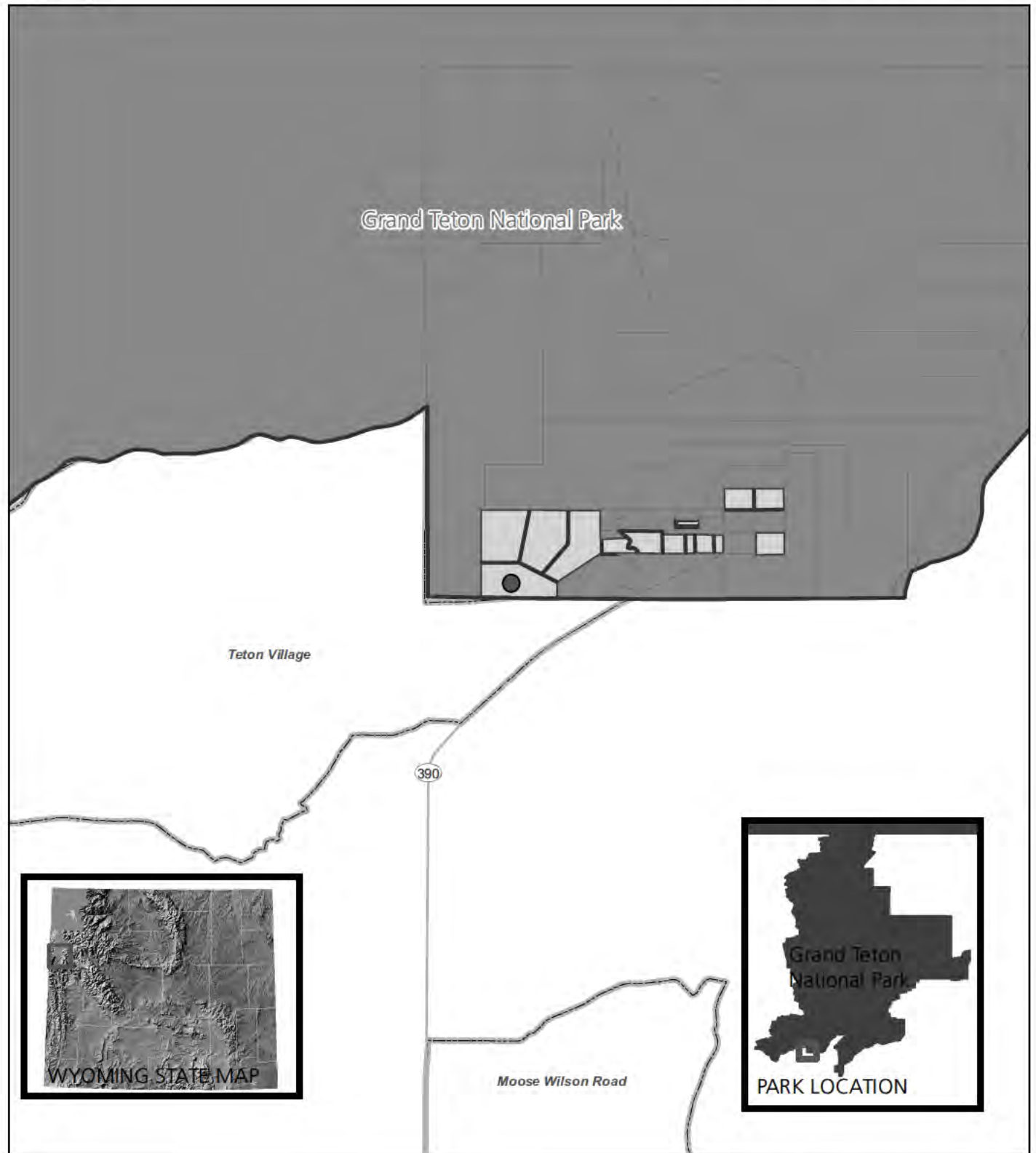
The tract is in the very center of Antietam National Battlefield, surrounded by NPS property. It has been described as the "hole in the donut" at Antietam. This property was the site of the main Confederate position on the northern end of the battlefield. Seventy percent of the Confederate casualties during the first hours of the battle occurred on this tract. Approximately 10,000 Union soldiers moved across this property as they attacked the Confederates, and numerous Union and Confederate artillery batteries were positioned here. The acquisition of this property has been the number one priority for the park for years.

Long term plans for this property include trail development and expansion of an auto tour stop at a highly significant and central area of the battlefield. Hiking the park trails is a primary park use. There is no more powerful interpretive opportunity than to walk in the footsteps of Civil War soldiers. Acquisition of this tract will allow visitors to stand where the action occurred, and the trails to be redeveloped and expanded on the north end of the battlefield will provide enhanced and expanded recreational opportunities.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Wyoming

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

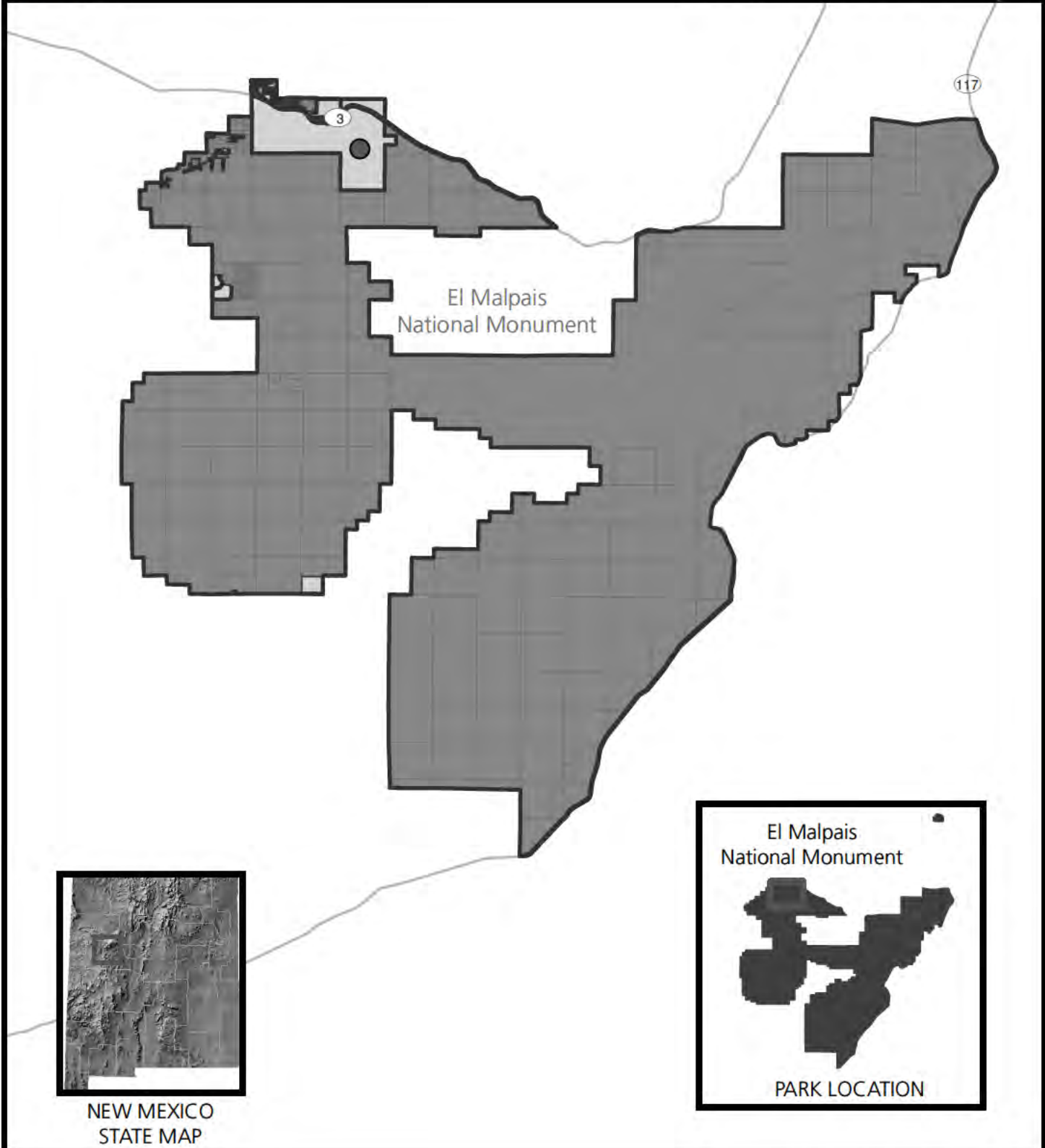


- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT

New Mexico

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



0 2 4 8 Miles

- Proposed Acquisition FY2019
- Park Boundary
- National Park Service Federal Lands
- Non Federal Lands
- Other Federal Lands

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Briefing Statement

Project: Land Acquisition Ranking System (LARS)

Background: Following direction from the Office of Management and Budget in the budget passback for fiscal year 2000, the Land Acquisition Program revised and further developed its nationwide priority ranking system. LARS was implemented during the FY 2001 budget process. It has been, and continues to be, refined on an annual basis and is currently used for the President's Budget process.

The initial information for each project is provided by the park unit and reviewed by regional or field offices of the Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition staff in each office assists the Regional staff in ranking the requests received using guidelines provided by the Washington (WASO) Program Office. Regional ranking scores and lists, as well as information sheets, are submitted to the WASO Land Acquisition Program Office. The WASO Program Office then ranks all requests. The combined score of the Regional and WASO ranking process is used to determine the initial national priority list.

The major criteria used in LARS are:

- Threat to the Resource,
- Preservation of the Resource,
- Visitor Use Facility accommodation,
- Commitment has been made to acquire,
- Involvement of Partners, Non-Profit Groups or availability of matching funds,
- Continuation of an ongoing effort,
- Recreational opportunities,
- Hardship of the owner
- Existence of legislative authority to acquire,
- Ability to obligate appropriated dollars,
- Regional priority of the project,
- Economic escalation or inflation factors, and
- The type of the unit.

The first seven major criteria are used by Regional and Project Office staff to rank requests from the individual units. The last five major criteria are used by the WASO Program Office staff to rank all the requests. The two scores are then combined for a nationwide ranking. Within each of the twelve major criteria there are factors (minor criteria) to be considered. For example, under "Threat to the Resource" those persons evaluating and assigning ranking points consider the nature of the threat, the immediacy and validity of the threat, the significance of the resources involved and whether or not the resource might be repaired (restored) if it were to come to harm. Adequately addressing each of the factors included in the major criteria provides background knowledge and rationale for ranking the project. There is no restriction on how many requests, in priority order, may be submitted by a Region or Project Office for consideration at the national level.

Consideration is given for those units and parcels for which acquisition funds were requested but have not been authorized. Such requests are removed from the national priority list. During the following year, it is expected that Park Unit staff will work with legislative staff to draft authorizing language where needed in order for these important projects to be considered for acquisition. Additional consideration for amended ranking of projects is based on administrative intent.

UPDATE FY2019 Preparation: In the FY2019 process, 266 discreet requests were rated at the national level, totaling \$443,214,945 estimated need. This represents 165 units within the National Park System.

To: Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]
From: Blanchard, Mary Josie
Sent: 2018-01-03T15:41:38-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in FY 2018 & Data Call
Received: 2018-01-03T15:42:27-05:00
[Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in Fiscal Year 2018.pdf](#)
[Attachment A - Priorities for Financial Assistance v2.docx](#)
[Attachment B - Mandatory Program Template.xlsx](#)
[Attachment C1 - Template for Financial Assistance Review v3.docx](#)
[Attachment C 2.docx](#)

fyi---Attachment A includes the Secretary's priorities.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Flanagan, Denise** <denise_flanagan@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 1:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in FY 2018 & Data Call
To: DOI_Bureau_Budget_Officers <doi_bureau_budget_officers@ios.doi.gov>

BBOs,

I'm forwarding new guidance for financial assistance actions which includes a data call to Assistant Secretaries and Bureau directors that may impact you. Please note Attachment A which lists the Secretary's Top Ten Priorities for financial assistance.

Thanks! Denise

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bennett, Julia** <julia_bennett@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 4:07 PM
Subject: Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in Fiscal Year 2018
To: Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, Walter Cruickshank <walter.cruickshank@boem.gov>, Brian Steed <bsteed@blm.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, Brenda Burman <bburman@usbr.gov>, Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Michael Reynolds <michael_reynolds@nps.gov>, Bryan Rice <bryan.rice@bia.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Nikolao Pula <nikolao_pula@ios.doi.gov>, Jill Moran <jcmoran@blm.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Hello,

On behalf of Scott Cameron, please refer to the attached memorandum in reference to the Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in Fiscal Year 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Howke, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management, and Budget, at 202-208-2883 or steven_howke@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,
Julia Bennett

Julia Bennett
Program Support Assistant
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, & Budget
Office of the Chief of Staff
Business & Administrative Division
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240 - Room 5013
(202) 208-3927
julia_bennett@ios.doi.gov

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Mary Josie Blanchard
Director, Gulf of Mexico Restoration
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
(202) 208 3406 (office)
(202) 997 1338 (cp)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Valid Recipients	Valid Types	YesorNo	Valid Discretion
Congress mandated one specific recipient	Grants	Yes	DOI has no discretion
Congress mandated a group of specific, named recipients	Cooperative agreements	No	DOI has some discretion within parameters set by Congr
Congress mandated a category of recipients (ex. States)	Both grants and cooperative agreements		DOI has high discretion
Any qualified entity could be a recipient			

ress

Attachment A:
Priorities for Financial Assistance

The Secretary of the Interior's Top Ten Priorities

1. *Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt*
 - a. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment;
 - b. Examine land use planning processes and land use designations that govern public use and access;
 - c. Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
 - d. Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity;
 - e. Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands;
 - f. Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing;
 - g. Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.
2. *Utilizing our natural resources*
 - a. Ensure American Energy is available to meet our security and economic needs;
 - b. Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals needed for scientific, technological, or military applications;
 - c. Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle;
 - d. Manage competition for grazing resources.
3. *Restoring trust with local communities*
 - a. Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands;
 - b. Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.
4. *Ensuring sovereignty means something*
 - a. Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty;
 - b. Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.
5. *Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests*
 - a. Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on federal lands;
 - b. Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery;

- c. Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.
- 6. *Protecting our people and the border*
 - a. Actively support efforts to secure our southern border;
 - b. Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
 - c. Promote a “public service” demeanor within our law enforcement community.
- 7. *Striking a regulatory balance*
 - a. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public;
 - b. Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.
- 8. *Modernizing our infrastructure*
 - a. Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure;
 - b. Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs;
 - c. Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
 - 1. Construction of infrastructure;
 - 2. Cyclical maintenance;
 - 3. Deferred maintenance.
- 9. *Reorganizing for the next 100 years*
 - a. Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure;
 - b. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service;
 - c. Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.
- 10. *Achieving our goals and leading our team forward*
 - a. Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary;
 - b. The Management Team is expected to:
 - 1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
 - 2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
 - 3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
 - 4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

Other Key Initiatives

- 1. Employment of veterans
- 2. Supporting DOI infrastructure needs

3. Creating jobs in the American economy
4. Access to outdoor recreation opportunities

**Attachment C-2:
Template for Financial Assistance Review**

A. Information on Grant or Cooperative Agreement		
Awarding Bureau or Office	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	
CFDA Program Name		
Obligation Amount	Expected Total Value	Proposed Recipient
Brief Description of Grant or Cooperative Agreement		
B. Signatures		
Bureau Director's Office (signature required if Expected Total Value is up to \$100,000)		
[Name and Title]	Date	
Assistant Secretary's Office (signature required if Expected Total Value exceeds \$100,000 and up to \$250,000)		
[Name and Title]	Date	
Office of Policy, Management and Budget (signature required if Expected Total Value exceeds \$250,000)		
[Name and Title]	Date	



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

Memorandum

DEC 28 2017

To: Assistant Secretaries
Heads of Bureaus and Offices

From: Scott J. Cameron *Scott J. Cameron*
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management
and Budget

Subject: Guidance for Financial Assistance Actions Effective in Fiscal Year 2018

This memorandum requests your assistance to ensure that discretionary grants and cooperative agreements awarded by the Department of the Interior beginning in FY 2018, better align with the Secretary's priorities (Attachment A). The following outlines actions needed to ensure appropriate review and oversight of the Department's financial assistance programs.

1. Within two weeks of the date of this memo, bureaus must submit the attached template (Attachment B) to the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) listing all financial assistance programs, indicating which are non-discretionary and which are discretionary. A program is considered non-discretionary if the bureau does not have legal authority to direct funds for particular purposes or to particular recipients. Examples of non-discretionary programs are self-determination contracts authorized under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act or the Fish and Wildlife Service's Wallop-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson grants to states.

Programs are considered discretionary if the bureau can direct funds to particular projects or purposes, if the bureau can set criteria for evaluating responses to Funding Opportunity Announcements in order to fund some proposals but not others, and can determine award recipients. The guidance in the balance of this memo applies to financial assistance in this discretionary category.

PAM will interact with the bureaus to resolve any uncertainties as to whether a program should be considered discretionary in the context of this guidance memo.

2. Effective the date of this memo, bureaus must ensure that each discretionary financial assistance program, to the extent allowed by its authorizing statute, will promote the priorities listed in Attachment A. To accomplish this goal, assistant secretaries and bureau directors, in conjunction with Mr. Steven Howke, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget must work with each discretionary program to set expectations and to develop a plan for program execution. The plan

should include the specific language that the program intends to include in its announcements, including eligibility requirements, merit review factors, and rating systems.

3. The Department has a new process for approving discretionary grants and cooperative agreements.
 - a. Grants and cooperative agreements with an individual or aggregate award of \$50,000 to a non-profit organization that can legally engage in advocacy (i.e.: that is an entity organized under sections 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code) must be reviewed by the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, with a completed standard form Attachment C-1.
 - b. Grants and cooperative agreements with an individual or aggregate award of \$50,000 to an institution of higher education must be reviewed by the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, with a completed standard form Attachment C-1.
 - c. Grants and cooperative agreements with an award ceiling of \$50,000 or more that are to be used to acquire land, or interest in land, must be reviewed by the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, with a completed standard form Attachment C-1.
 - d. For all other grants and cooperative agreements not covered by paragraphs a, b, or c above:
 - i. Those with a ceiling of less than \$100,000 must be reviewed and may be approved by bureau directors.
 - ii. Those with an award ceiling above \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 must be reviewed and may be approved by the appropriate assistant secretary.
 - iii. Those with an award ceiling of \$250,000 or more must be reviewed and may be approved by the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, with standard form Attachment C-2.
 - e. Grants and cooperative agreements of any type in any amount may be subject to an after-the-fact review process to ascertain whether the funds were appropriately expended and whether the anticipated benefits were produced. The Office of Policy, Management, and Budget (PMB) will review internal control procedures established by each Bureau and office. These internal control procedures will be periodically tested to ensure consistent application and adherence.
 - f. ***Instances circumventing the Secretarial priorities or the review process will cause greater scrutiny and will result in slowing down the approval process for all awards.***
4. The Department's Office of Communications will develop a process with bureaus and offices to determine which approved grants and cooperative agreements should be publicized.

5. PMB plans to update Departmental financial assistance policies early in calendar 2018, and in that process will consult with bureaus and offices to ensure that revised policies enable the Department to consistently better manage the risks associated with awards provided to third parties.
6. The Senior Adviser and the Assistant Secretaries may work together to make subsequent modifications to the review process described here, with respect to the programs of individual bureaus.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Steve Howke, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management, and Budget, at 202-208-2883 or steven_howke@ios.doi.gov.

Attachments

**Attachment C-1:
Template for Financial Assistance Review**

A. Information on Grant or Cooperative Agreement		
Awarding Bureau or Office	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	
CFDA Program Name		
Obligation Amount	Expected Total Value	Proposed Recipient
Proposed Recipient Type <input type="checkbox"/> 501 (c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501 (c)(6) <input type="checkbox"/> 501 (c)(4) <input type="checkbox"/> College or <input type="checkbox"/> 501 (c)(5) University		Are purchases of land authorized for this action? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, less than \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, more than \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> No
Brief Description of Grant or Cooperative Agreement		
B. Signatures		
Bureau Director's Office (signature required if Expected Total Value is up to \$50,000)		
[Name and Title]	Date	
Office of Policy, Management and Budget (signature required if Expected Total Value exceeds \$50,000)		
[Name and Title]	Date	

To: Conway, Laura (Lori)[Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-03T16:52:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T16:52:10-05:00

Hi Laura,
Can you send me a 1 pager/background information regarding the meeting tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:48 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Laura, you too.

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:46 PM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you! Have a great night and stay warm.

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Laura,

Update to participants list.

Jerome Ford will be here in person and Paul Souza will call in. Robyn nor Theresa will participate.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:43 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program

Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One

Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!
Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale
Assistant to Andy Spielman,

Kayla Byers and Sarah Judkins
1225 Seventeenth St.
Suite 2600
Denver, CO 80202 USA
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From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.

Best,

Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc

Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources

Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at *NextEra* Energy, Inc

Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale

Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,

Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm

Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B.

<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose

those dates. Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002,

cell 202(b) (6) .

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Tasha_I_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

Best,

Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale
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raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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--

Tasha L. Robbins

Executive Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary

for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160

202-208-4416

Tasha__1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

--

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Tasha L. Robbins
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Office of the Assistant Secretary
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1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Gregory Sheehan[greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov]; Theresa Rabot[theresa_rabot@fws.gov]; Gary Frazer[Gary_Frazer@fws.gov]
From: Thorson, Robyn
Sent: 2018-01-03T17:36:23-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Mazama Pocket Gopher
Received: 2018-01-03T17:36:55-05:00

Here is information in response to your most recent questions about the Mazama pocket gopher and the Thurston County HCP:

Q: How many total acres of land in Thurston County does the Mazama Pocket Gopher need? Can any of the land already set aside for conservation of the gopher be used? If so, how much?

A: FWS is working with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to identify population objectives and the amount of prairie habitat acres necessary to maintain a sustainable population for each of the three listed sub-species of gophers found in Thurston County. We have regularly communicated the status of recovery efforts to Thurston County and other HCP applicants including the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia.

Lands currently set aside for pocket gopher conservation by other entities would not offset additional impacts. Measures taken to increase the value (to pocket gophers) of any already-set-aside lands may be considered for offsetting additional impacts ("additionality"), depending on qualifying circumstances.

Q: I've seen grants that allow the acquisition (or easements, etc) of land for conservation purpose for the States via section 6. Couldn't this method be available to allow Thurston County to acquire additional property for gopher habitat?

A: There are two section 6 grant programs that fund land acquisition: the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program. Through the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program, funds may be used to purchase lands above and beyond what an approved HCP sets aside as mitigation, in order to conserve larger landscapes, or reduce conflicts (such as providing a buffer around a mitigation area). The Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program funds land acquisition in support of approved recovery plan objectives.

These section 6 land acquisition grants are limited and competed for annually by all States. The President's FY18 budget requested \$0 for both of these section 6 land acquisition grant programs. The FY17 enacted levels were \$19.6M and \$11.2M, respectively.

Q: What is the status of the HCP?

No meaningful progress toward defining the Thurston County HCP scope and funding model has been made by the Thurston County in the past 12 months. This is in spite of numerous public meetings and briefings to explain issues and discuss options and make a decision; extensive and documented meetings and technical assistance to the County by FWS and Washington State; and substantial HCP planning grants awarded to the County.

The lack of progress was discussed in the phone call November 17 with you, Commissioner Edwards, WDFW Director Jim Unsworth, and FWS Eric Rickerson (field leader) and FWS Regional Office leaders. The Thurston County Commission met December 13 and again made

no meaningful progress toward defining the HCP scope and funding model.

FWS is waiting for the County Commissioners to communicate the scope of activities and funding model they will include in their HCP application, so that the HCP may proceed and builders/homeowners can get their incidental take permits. The decision on scope of the HCP can only be made by the County Commissioners.

As a result of the delays, an increasing number of Thurston County property owners are approaching FWS to process their individual HCPs, and the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia (both within Thurston County) started later but have now caught up with Thurston County in their HCP planning/preparation.

It is disappointing that Thurston County has not moved forward on the HCP, in spite of substantial grant funding for this purpose along with a high level of technical assistance from FWS and the State of Washington. Although a county-wide HCP would be a more efficient means (less costly) for residential, commercial and public property owners to obtain Incidental Take authorization, because of inaction on the HCP at the December 13 Commission meeting it appears timely to redirect our priority support from the County and instead focus on the Port of Olympia, City of Tumwater, and individual homeowners eager for HCP/Incidental Take Permits, so that we can help development interests in Thurston County to proceed. We are assessing that situation.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 10:43 AM, Skipwith, Aurelia <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Robyn: I have additional questions from our call with Washington State Fish & Game and the Commissioners regarding the Mazama Pocket Gophers.

- How many total acres of land in Thurston County does the Mazama Pocket Gopher need? Can any of the land already set aside for conservation of the gopher be used? If so, how much?
- What is the population target for recovery to be achieved?
- What's the status of the HCP?

Greg: I've seen grants that allow the acquisition (or easements, etc) of land for conservation purpose for the States via section 6. Couldn't this method be available to allow Thurston County to acquire additional property for gopher habitat?

Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior

1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148

Washington, DC 20240

(202) 208 5837

To: Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]
From: karmen_young@ios.doi.gov
Sent: 2018-01-03T17:46:53-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Search Request: FOIA Request OS-2018-00443
Received: 2018-01-03T17:47:41-05:00
[18-00443qa.pdf](#)
[FOIA Control Form \(1.3.18\).pdf](#)

Hello,

Please reference our new search request template effective now.
If questions, please let us know.

Thank you

Karmen

The Office of the Secretary Freedom of Information Act Office (OS FOIA) believes you may have responsive records pertaining to the attached FOIA request. It is important that we timely and accurately respond to all FOIA requests. The law allows FOIA requesters to shift the costs for collecting and producing responsive records to agencies if we do not respond within 20 days. Also, we want to make sure that we make the right decisions about protecting information where we can under the law and you have the best understanding of what information should be protected given your subject matter expertise. We therefore need and greatly appreciate your assistance in responding to this request.

1. **Open the attached FOIA immediately**
2. **Determine if you have responsive records, both paper and electronic files.**
3. **We have determined that this FOIA request is in the [COMPLEX processing track]. Please use this processing track to set your processing priority, if we have informed you that you have multiple FOIA requests, as discussed in the attached form.**
4. **If you need further assistance in prioritizing multiple searches, please contact OS FOIA.**

If you have NO RESPONSIVE RECORDS

- Complete the attached FOIA Control Form indicating no records
- Return the FOIA Control Form as soon as possible so you can be removed from the process.

If you have RESPONSIVE RECORDS

- Provide *all* responsive records and complete the attached FOIA Control

Form

- Provide the documents and the FOIA Control Form to OS FOIA electronically (CD, via the FOIA/DMU Processing Application, email, or thumb drive) if possible.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RECORDS I PROVIDE?

OS FOIA staff will review the records provided. *You may note any records you think are sensitive and describe their sensitivities see the attached FOIA Control Form.* OS FOIA, in consultation with SOL, will make the final determination on the withholding of documents.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE OS FOIA OFFICE?

- Phone: (202) 513-0765
- Email: osfoia@ios.doi.gov
- Office: MIB 7328

FOIA training opportunities are available

EVERY Third Wednesday MIB 7013, 1:30-2:30

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Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary, FOIA Office
1849 C Street, NW, MS 7328
Washington, D.C. 20240
os_foia@ios.doi.gov
(202) 513 0765 phone
(202) 219 2374 fax



December 18, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Clarice Julka, FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Interior
MS-7328, MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
os_foia@ios.doi.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request: North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Work Halted

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, *as amended* ("FOIA"), from the Center for Biological Diversity ("Center"), a non-profit organization that works to secure a future for all species hovering on the brink of extinction through science, law, and creative media, and to fulfill the continuing educational goals of its membership and the general public in the process.

REQUESTED RECORDS

The Center requests the following records from the U.S. Department of the Interior ("Interior"): all records mentioning, including, referencing, and/or generated in connection with Interior's directive to the North Cascades National Park ("North Cascades NP") to stop work on its environmental impact statement regarding grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem. *See generally* Rob Chaney, *North Cascades grizzly bear recovery work halted by Interior Department*, Missoulain, http://missoulain.com/news/local/north-cascades-grizzly-bear-recovery-work-halted-by-interior-department/article_54f56987-68f7-5227-a7a5-ec14d7a6d44d.html (last visited Dec. 18, 2017).

For this request, the term "all records" refers to, but is not limited to, any and all documents, correspondence (including, but not limited to, inter and/or intra-agency correspondence as well as correspondence with entities or individuals outside the federal government), emails, letters, notes, recordings, telephone records, voicemails, telephone notes, telephone logs, text messages, chat messages, minutes, memoranda, comments, files, presentations, consultations, biological opinions, assessments, evaluations, schedules, papers published and/or unpublished, reports, studies, photographs and other images, data (including raw data, GPS or GIS data, UTM, LiDAR, etc.), maps, and/or all other responsive records, in draft or final form.

This request is not meant to exclude any other records that, although not specially requested, are reasonably related to the subject matter of this request. If you or your office have destroyed or determine to withhold any records that could be reasonably construed to be responsive to this request, I ask that you indicate this fact and the reasons therefore in your response.

Under the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, agencies are prohibited from denying requests for information under FOIA unless the agency reasonably believes release of the information will harm an interest that is protected by the exemption. FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (Public Law No. 114-185), codified at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A).

Should you decide to invoke a FOIA exemption, please include sufficient information for us to assess the basis for the exemption, including any interest(s) that would be harmed by release. Please include a detailed ledger which includes:

1. Basic factual material about each withheld record, including the originator, date, length, general subject matter, and location of each item; and
2. Complete explanations and justifications for the withholding, including the specific exemption(s) under which the record (or portion thereof) was withheld and a full explanation of how each exemption applies to the withheld material. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination. Your written justification may help to avoid litigation.

If you determine that portions of the records requested are exempt from disclosure, we request that you segregate the exempt portions and mail the non-exempt portions of such records to my attention at the address below within the statutory time limit. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

The Center is willing to receive records on a rolling basis.

Finally, FOIA's "frequently requested record" provision was enacted as part of the 1996 Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments, and requires all federal agencies to give "reading room" treatment to any FOIA-processed records that, "because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records." *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(I). Also, enacted as part of the 2016 FOIA Improvement Act, FOIA's Rule of 3 requires all federal agencies to proactively "make available for public inspection in an electronic format" "copies of records, regardless of form or format ... that have been released to any person ... and ... that have been requested 3 or more times." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(II). Therefore, we respectfully request that you make available online any records that the agency determines will become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records, and records that have been requested three or more times.

FORMAT OF REQUESTED RECORDS

Under FOIA, you are obligated to provide records in a readily accessible electronic format and in the format requested. *See, e.g.*, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B) ("In making any record available to a

person under this paragraph, an agency shall provide the record in any form or format requested by the person if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format.”).

“Readily accessible” means text-searchable and OCR-formatted. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B). We ask that you please provide all records in an electronic format. Additionally, please provide the records either in (1) load-ready format with a CSV file index or Excel spreadsheet, or; (2) for files that are in .PDF format, without any “portfolios” or “embedded files.” Portfolios and embedded files within files are not readily accessible. Please do not provide the records in a single, or “batched,” .PDF file. We appreciate the inclusion of an index.

If you should seek to withhold or redact any responsive records, we request that you: (1) identify each such record with specificity (including date, author, recipient, and parties copied); (2) explain in full the basis for withholding responsive material; and (3) provide all segregable portions of the records for which you claim a specific exemption. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Please correlate any redactions with specific exemptions under FOIA.

REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

FOIA was designed to provide citizens a broad right to access government records. FOIA’s basic purpose is to “open agency action to the light of public scrutiny,” with a focus on the public’s “right to be informed about what their government is up to.” *U.S. Dep’t of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773-74 (1989) (internal quotation and citations omitted). In order to provide public access to this information, FOIA’s fee waiver provision requires that “[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge or at a [reduced] charge,” if the request satisfies the standard. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). FOIA’s fee waiver requirement is “liberally construed.” *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1310 (D.C. Cir. 2003); *Forest Guardians v. U.S. Dept. of Interior*, 416 F.3d 1173, 1178 (10th Cir. 2005).

The 1986 fee waiver amendments were designed specifically to provide non-profit organizations such as the Center access to government records without the payment of fees. Indeed, FOIA’s fee waiver provision was intended “to prevent government agencies from using high fees to discourage certain types of requesters and requests,” which are “consistently associated with requests from journalists, scholars, and *non-profit public interest groups*.” *Ettlinger v. FBI*, 596 F.Supp. 867, 872 (D. Mass. 1984) (emphasis added). As one Senator stated, “[a]gencies should not be allowed to use fees as an offensive weapon against requesters seeking access to Government information” 132 Cong. Rec. S. 14298 (statement of Senator Leahy).

I. The Center Qualifies for a Fee Waiver.

Under FOIA, a party is entitled to a fee waiver when “disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the [Federal] government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The Interior FOIA regulations at 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(1)-(4) establish the same standard.

Thus, Interior must consider four factors to determine whether a request is in the public interest: (1) whether the subject of the requested records concerns “the operations or activities of the

Federal government,” (2) whether the disclosure is “likely to contribute” to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) whether the disclosure “will contribute to public understanding” of a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject, and (4) whether the disclosure is likely to contribute “significantly” to public understanding of government operations or activities. 43 C.F.R. § 2.48(a)(1)-(4). As shown below, the Center meets each of these factors.

A. The Subject of This Request Concerns “The Operations and Activities of the Government.”

The subject matter of this request concerns the operations and activities of Interior. This request asks for: all records mentioning, including, referencing, and/or generated in connection with Interior’s directive that North Cascades NP stop work on its environmental impact statement regarding grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem. *See generally* Rob Chaney, *North Cascades grizzly bear recovery work halted by Interior Department*, Missoulian, http://missoulian.com/news/local/north-cascades-grizzly-bear-recovery-work-halted-by-interior-department/article_54f56987-68f7-5227-a7a5-ec14d7a6d44d.html (last visited Dec. 18, 2017).

This FOIA will provide the Center and the public with crucial insight into the Interior’s decision to stop work on grizzly bear recovery. It is clear that a federal agency requesting that a U.S. national park halt work on an environmental impact statement for a listed species under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544 (“ESA”) is a specific and identifiable activity of the government, in this case the executive branch agency, the Interior. *Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1313 (“[R]easonable specificity is all that FOIA requires with regard to this factor”) (internal quotations omitted). Thus, the Center meets this factor.

B. Disclosure is “Likely to Contribute” to an Understanding of Government Operations or Activities.

The requested records are meaningfully informative about government operations or activities and will contribute to an increased understanding of those operations and activities by the public.

Disclosure of the requested records will allow the Center to convey to the public information about the Interior’s decision-making process regarding halting work on grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem. Once the information is made available, the Center will analyze it and present it to its 1.5 million members and online activists and the general public in a manner that will meaningfully enhance the public’s understanding of this topic.

Thus, the requested records are likely to contribute to an understanding of the Interior operations and activities.

C. Disclosure of the Requested Records Will Contribute to a Reasonably Broad Audience of Interested Persons' Understanding of The Halting of Grizzly Bear Recovery Work

The requested records will contribute to public understanding of how the Interior's action to discontinue work on grizzly bear recovery is consistent with the ESA. As explained above, the records will contribute to public understanding of this topic.

Activities of the Interior generally, and specifically its decision to stop work on an environmental impact statement concerning grizzly bear recovery, are areas of interest to a reasonably broad segment of the public. The Center will use the information it obtains from the disclosed records to educate the public at large about the Interior's mandate to stop work on grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem. *See W. Watersheds Proj. v. Brown*, 318 F.Supp.2d 1036, 1040 (D. Idaho 2004) ("... find[ing] that WWP adequately specified the public interest to be served, that is, educating the public about the ecological conditions of the land managed by the BLM and also how ... management strategies employed by the BLM may adversely affect the environment.").

Through the Center's synthesis and dissemination (by means discussed in Section II, below), disclosure of information contained and gleaned from the requested records will contribute to a broad audience of persons who are interested in the subject matter. *Ettlinger v. FBI*, 596 F.Supp. at 876 (benefit to a population group of some size distinct from the requester alone is sufficient); *Carney v. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 815 (2d Cir. 1994), *cert. denied*, 513 U.S. 823 (1994) (applying "public" to require a sufficient "breadth of benefit" beyond the requester's own interests); *Cnty. Legal Servs. v. Dep't of Hous. & Urban Dev.*, 405 F.Supp.2d 553, 557 (E.D. Pa. 2005) (in granting fee waiver to community legal group, court noted that while the requester's "work by its nature is unlikely to reach a very general audience," "there is a segment of the public that is interested in its work").

Indeed, the public does not currently have an ability to easily evaluate the requested records regarding Interior's directive to halt grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem, which are not currently in the public domain. *See Cnty. Legal Servs. v. HUD*, 405 F.Supp.2d 553, 560 (D. Pa. 2005) (because requested records "clarify important facts" about agency policy, "the CLS request would likely shed light on information that is new to the interested public."). As the Ninth Circuit observed in *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1286 (9th Cir. 1987), "[FOIA] legislative history suggests that information [has more potential to contribute to public understanding] to the degree that the information is new and supports public oversight of agency operations... ."¹

Disclosure of these records is not only "likely to contribute," but is certain to contribute, to public understanding of the Interior's decision to halt work on an environmental impact

¹ In this connection, it is immaterial whether any portion of the Center's request may currently be in the public domain because the Center requests considerably more than any piece of information that may currently be available to other individuals. *See Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1315.

statement regarding grizzly bears in the North Cascades Ecosystem. The public is always well served when it knows how the government conducts its activities, particularly matters touching on legal questions. Hence, there can be no dispute that disclosure of the requested records to the public will educate the public about why the Interior decided to cease work on grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem

D. Disclosure is Likely to Contribute Significantly to Public Understanding of Government Operations or Activities.

The Center is not requesting these records merely for their intrinsic informational value. Disclosure of the requested records will significantly enhance the public's understanding of the Interior's mandate to discontinue work on the environmental impact statement concerning the grizzly bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem as compared to the level of public understanding that exists prior to the disclosure. Indeed, public understanding will be *significantly* increased as a result of disclosure because the requested records will help reveal more about the stoppage of grizzly bear recovery.

The records are also certain to shed light on Interior's compliance with the ESA. Such public oversight of agency action is vital to our democratic system and clearly envisioned by the drafters of the FOIA. Thus, the Center meets this factor as well.

II. The Center has a Demonstrated Ability to Disseminate the Requested Information Broadly.

The Center is a non-profit organization that informs, educates, and counsels the public regarding environmental issues, policies, and laws relating to environmental issues. The Center has been substantially involved in the activities of numerous government agencies for over 25 years, and has consistently displayed its ability to disseminate information granted to it through FOIA.

In consistently granting the Center's fee waivers, agencies have recognized: (1) that the information requested by the Center contributes significantly to the public's understanding of the government's operations or activities; (2) that the information enhances the public's understanding to a greater degree than currently exists; (3) that the Center possesses the expertise to explain the requested information to the public; (4) that the Center possesses the ability to disseminate the requested information to the general public; (5) and that the news media recognizes the Center as an established expert in the field of imperiled species, biodiversity, and impacts on protected species. The Center's track record of active participation in oversight of governmental activities and decision making, and its consistent contribution to the public's understanding of those activities as compared to the level of public understanding prior to disclosure are well established.

The Center intends to use the records requested here similarly. The Center's work appears in more than 2,500 news stories online and in print, radio and TV per month, including regular reporting in such important outlets as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *Los Angeles Times*. Many media outlets have reported on grizzly bear protection utilizing information obtained by the Center from federal agencies including the Interior. In 2016, more

than 2 million people visited the Center's extensive website, viewing a total of more than 5.2 million pages. The Center sends out more than 277 email newsletters and action alerts per year to more than 1.5 million members and supporters. Three times a year, the Center sends printed newsletters to more than 61,443 members. More than 259,900 people have "liked" the Center on Facebook, and there are regular postings regarding protection of endangered species. The Center also regularly tweets to more than 55,000 followers on Twitter. The Center intends to use any or all of these far-reaching media outlets to share with the public information obtained as a result of this request.

Public oversight and enhanced understanding of Interior's duties is absolutely necessary. In determining whether disclosure of requested information will contribute significantly to public understanding, a guiding test is whether the requester will disseminate the information to a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. *Carney v U.S. Dept. of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807 (2nd Cir. 1994). The Center need not show how it intends to distribute the information, because "[n]othing in FOIA, the [agency] regulation, or our case law require[s] such pointless specificity." *Judicial Watch*, 326 F.3d at 1314. It is sufficient for the Center to show how it distributes information to the public generally. *Id.*

III. Obtaining the Requested Records is of No Commercial Interest to the Center.

Access to government records, disclosure forms, and similar materials through FOIA requests is essential to the Center's role of educating the general public. Founded in 1994, the Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization (EIN: 27-3943866) with more than 1.5 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered and threatened species and wild places. The Center has no commercial interest and will realize no commercial benefit from the release of the requested records.

IV. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Center qualifies for a full fee waiver. We hope that the Interior will immediately grant this fee waiver request and begin to search and disclose the requested records without any unnecessary delays.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (971) 717-6409 or foia@biologicaldiversity.org. All records and any related correspondence should be sent to my attention at the address below.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Townsend
Open Government Staff Attorney
CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
P.O. Box 11374
Portland, OR 97211-0374
foia@biologicaldiversity.org

FOIA CONTROL FORM FOR
REQUEST OS-20-

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact us at osfoia@ios.doi.gov or 202-513-0765.

PROCESSING PRIORITY

The attached email will tell you what "Processing Track" this request is in. ***If OS FOIA has asked you to conduct more than one FOIA search, conduct your searches (in the order of priority below) on a first-in, first-out basis.***

The order of priority is: Expedited, Simple, Normal, Complex, and Exceptional/Voluminous. So, for example, you should generally complete the search for all the requests you have in the Normal track, from oldest to newest, before completing your search for any requests in the Complex track.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN FULL

This information will help us timely and accurately process the FOIA request. Filling out this form completely will also help avoid further work on your part if the requester administratively appeals or litigates our response.

CERTIFICATION

I have undertaken a good-faith search for records potentially responsive to this request and all responsive records have been provided to OS FOIA.

Electronic Signature:

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hard copy records? YES ☐ NO ☐

for records? YES ☐ NO ☐

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contact us ASAP at 202-513-0765)

tive because of litigation potential
siderations

To: Thomas Garcia[thomas_garcia@nps.gov]
Cc: Tasha Robbins[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Blanchard, Mary Josie
Sent: 2018-01-03T17:47:29-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Gulf Restoration staffing list
Received: 2018-01-03T17:48:17-05:00
DRAFT Who's who DOI DWH Gulf Restoraiton Team121417 Debora.xlsx

Also, note that there are 4 lists for 4 bureaus.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Blanchard, Mary Josie** <maryjosie_blanchard@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 5:43 PM
Subject: Fwd: Gulf Restoration staffing list
To: Thomas Garcia <thomas_garcia@nps.gov>

Could you print a copy that contains all of the information on the pages? I seem to get 4 (not 7) columns. I would like it printed with 7 columns.
I need tomorrow, if possible.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debora McClain** <debora_mcclain@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Gulf Restoration staffing list
To: Mary Josie Blanchard <maryjosie_blanchard@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kevin Reynolds <kevin_reynolds@fws.gov>

Mary Josie, attached is the list I told you about last week that we've been pulling together over the past few months of who in the bureaus works on Gulf Restoration. Debora

--

Mary Josie Blanchard
Director, Gulf of Mexico Restoration
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
(202) 208 3406 (office)
(202) 997 1338 (cp)

--

Mary Josie Blanchard
Director, Gulf of Mexico Restoration

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
(202) 208 3406 (office)
(202) 997 1338 (cp)

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[illegible]

Name	Bureau	Location	Position	Roles	Phone	Email
Jim Haas	NPS	Ft Collin, CO	Chief, Resource Protection Branch	NPS NRDAR Coordination	970 267 2120	james_haas@nps.gov
Mark VanMouwerik	NPS	Ft Collin, CO	Restoration Planner, RPB	NRDAR Restoration project implementation and planning	970 225 3507	mark_vanmouwerik@nps.gov
Lacy Harvey	NPS	Lakewood, CO	Budget Analyst, RPB	NRDAR budget management and cost documentation	303 969 2539	telacy_harvey@nps.gov
Darrell Echols	NPS	Atlanta, GA	Chief, Science and Natural Resources Management, Southeast Region	NPS RESTORE Act Coordination*	404 507 5807	darrell_echols@nps.gov
Tim Pinion	NPS	Atlanta, GA	T&E Coordinator and Wildlife Biologist, SE Region	NPS RESTORE Act Coordination	404 507 5815	timothy_pinion@nps.gov
Mark Ford	NPS	New Orleans, LA	Wetlands Ecologist, SE Region	NPS RESTORE Act Coordination	504 589 3882	mark_ford@nps.gov

[illegible]

[illegible]

Name	Bureau	Location	Position	Roles	Phone	Email
Tershara Matthews	BOEM	New Orleans, LA	Marine Minerals & CZM Supervisor	BOEM GOMR, DOI Internal Coordination Team	504-736-2676	Tershara.matthews@boem.gov
Greg Kozlowski	BOEM	New Orleans, LA	Deputy Regional Supervisor	Gulf of Mexico Region, Office of Environn	504-736-2512	greg.kozlowski@boem.gov
Michael Miner	BOEM	New Orleans, LA			504-736-2700	Stephanie.Gambino@boem.gov
Barry Obiol	BOEM	New Orleans, LA	Deputy Regional Director		504-736-2786	barry.obiol@boem.gov

To: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Jim Kurth[Jim_Kurth@fws.gov]; Theresa Rabot[theresa_rabot@fws.gov]; Gary Frazer[Gary_Frazer@fws.gov]
From: Thorson, Robyn
Sent: 2018-01-03T19:11:39-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Millenum Bulk Terminal
Received: 2018-01-03T19:12:06-05:00

FWS review of this project is in abeyance because the State of Washington has denied the permits to move ahead. In response, the company sued the State. About an hour ago I forwarded to you an E&E news clip about Washington's denial of permits and the company's lawsuit, as FYI only.

FWS (and NOAA) do not have a timeline to receive a BA from the Corps. We checked with the Corps of Engineers yesterday to confirm that this project is not currently under review, and they are similarly waiting for a substantially revised project description to remove/accommodate the State's objections.

FWS has not identified any parts of this project that need to be changed in order to address bull trout or bull trout critical habitat. We have cooperated with the project proponent and with the Corps of Engineers in preparing the project for review, with agreement that there will be formal ESA Section 7 consultation on both the species and critical habitat. Past discussion over whether the project is likely/not likely to adversely affect CH is no longer relevant given the agreement on formal consultation.

With the project status "on hold" it's unclear what additional information might be helpful to address your interests at this time, but just let us know. We welcome your interest in Pacific Northwest issues.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

On Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 4:08 PM, Skipwith, Aurelia <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Robyn,

Okay. What parts of the project need to be changed that effect the bull-trout and their habitat (or river)? When do you anticipate the Corps will submit a BA? Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Thorson, Robyn <robyn_thorson@fws.gov> wrote:

Jim Kurth forwarded your request for information about the status of the FWS consultation (BiOp) for the Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Washington State (Longview). FWS consultation is for bull trout and bull trout critical habitat.

On September 26, 2017, the State of Washington (Department of Ecology) denied (with prejudice) the Applicant's request for a Clean Water Act certification, and on October 24 the State's Department of Natural Resources denied the Applicant's request to build improvements on the Aquatic Land Lease. It is our understanding that substantial revision to the project would be needed before resubmitting an application, and the FWS bull trout and critical habitat consultation would be based on the revised project. We are waiting for the Corps to revise the project plan and Biological Assessment in order the address the state permit needs -- Section 7 consultation will be initiated when the Service receives a complete BA that reflects updates to the proposed action.

Meanwhile, we continue to work with the Corps to address disagreement over the effects determination for the (previously) proposed action on designated bull trout critical habitat. We did a lot of work on the previous proposal and we'll have that for when consultation is initiated.

I am copying Gary Frazer to keep him apprised of this important energy project. We would be glad to provide additional information or discuss this on the phone -- basically we're waiting for a revised proposal before the clock starts to toll on the BiOp.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson

Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kurth, Jim** <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Millenum Bulk Terminal
To: Robyn Thorson <Robyn_Thorson@fws.gov>, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov>

Can you provide an update to Aurelia, copying me? Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Skipwith, Aurelia** <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 4:29 PM
Subject: Millenum Bulk Terminal
To: "James W. Kurth" <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Cc: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

Jim,

I hope you are having a wonderful weekend.

What's the status and expected finalization of the BiOp for this project? Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

To: Steven Howke[steven_howke@ios.doi.gov]
From: Skipwith, Aurelia
Sent: 2018-01-03T19:29:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Background on Sources of Funding
Received: 2018-01-03T19:29:43-05:00
[CooperativeEndangeredSpeciesConserGrants.pdf](#)
[Section6Funding_NFO.pdf](#)

Steve,

Here's a couple of documents on the Section 6 funding. When you refer to the 'source of funding' column, you'll notice Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants. The attached two page briefer gives information on those 4 different categories of that grant.

The other document is more detail on Section 6 funding and policy behind it, as we discussed the Notice of Funding Opportunities. You'll notice in some of the project description it mentions Section 6 funding.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Program**

FY 2017 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Grants
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.615

Notice of Funding Opportunity

I. Description of Funding Opportunity

Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on privately-owned lands, the Service recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands. States and Territories (hereafter, "States") play a key role in catalyzing these efforts. A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. The CESCF provides grants to States to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, listed, and recently recovered species.

Four grant programs are available through the CESCF; they include the "Traditional" Conservation Grants and the Nontraditional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Grants.

"Traditional" Conservation Grants: The "Traditional" Conservation Grants program provides financial assistance to States to implement conservation projects for candidate, listed, and recently recovered species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

Nontraditional Programs:

- **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants** - Through the development of regional HCPs, local governments incorporate species conservation into local land use planning, which streamlines the project approval process and facilitates economic development. Established in fiscal year 2001, the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants program provides funding to States to support the development of HCPs. Planning assistance grants may support planning activities such as document preparation, outreach, baseline surveys, and inventories. Proposals for amendments to existing HCPs will not be accepted.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants** - The HCP Land Acquisition Grant program was established by Congress in fiscal year 1997. This program was designed to reduce conflicts between the conservation of listed species and land uses on specific parcels of land. Under this program, the Service provides grants to States for land acquisitions (both in fee simple and conservation easements) that are associated with approved (permitted) HCPs. The Service considers the use of Federal acquisition dollars by States

for habitat protection adjacent to HCP areas to be an important and effective mechanism to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

The HCP Land Acquisition program has three primary purposes: 1) to fund land acquisitions that complement, but do not replace, Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring responsibilities contained in HCPs, 2) to fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for listed and candidate species, and 3) to fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for ecosystems that support listed and candidate species.

The HCP Land Acquisition program supports both single-species and multiple-species HCPs. For fiscal year 2017, 10 percent of the funding available through the HCP Land Acquisition program will be targeted to support single-species HCP land acquisition projects.

- **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants** - Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species and land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of protecting habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States individually have the necessary resources to acquire habitat essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and other non-Federal entities to acquire (both in fee simple and conservation easements) this habitat from willing sellers in support of approved or draft species recovery plans. The Recovery Land Acquisition program was established in fiscal year 2001.

As in previous fiscal years, in order to support high priority efforts of the Service and States, a process has been implemented whereby the Service Regional Directors are provided with 25 points total in each of the Nontraditional programs to distribute among project proposals to reflect the collective priorities of the States and the Service. We ask that the States and Service Regional Directors consider project readiness and how a proposal may address conservation in the context of climate change when assigning these points to a proposal.

The CESCOF programs are authorized through Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 - 1534 et seq., as amended. The codified program regulations can be found at 50 CFR 81.

II. Award Information

For fiscal year 2017, the President's budget request for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$53.495 million, including \$7.39 million for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants, \$11.162 million for Recovery Land Acquisition Grants, and \$19.638 million for Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants. The actual amount of funding that will be available is based on Congress passing a final appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior.

“Traditional” Conservation Grants: The award announcements for the fiscal year 2017 “Traditional” grants will be determined by our Regional Offices. Funding is allocated by formula to the Service Regions based on the number of species covered in the cooperative agreements with the States within that Region. Regional offices then further allocate the funding to the States within that Region by formula or through a competitive process. Awards for the “Traditional” Conservation Grants will be announced through regional press releases and direct notification of the applicant from the Regional Offices of the Service. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of CESCOF funding, nor should they purchase materials or begin work until such time as they receive the final grant award document signed by an authorized Service official. The Service awarded approximately \$11.5 million in fiscal year 2016 through the “Traditional” Conservation Grant Program.

Nontraditional Grant Programs: Funding for the HCP Land Acquisition and Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance programs is awarded based on a national competition. Following a regional “target” allocation from the Headquarters Office, funding for the Recovery Land Acquisition program is awarded based on regional competitions.

The Service awarded approximately \$44.8 million in fiscal year 2016 funding to Nontraditional Program projects through the CESCOF. Of that amount, approximately \$5.8 million was awarded through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance program to fully and partially fund 7 out of 8 eligible proposals from 8 States. Approximately \$22 million fully funded 11 out of 11 eligible proposals through the HCP Land Acquisition program. The Recovery Land Acquisition program awarded approximately \$17.2 million in funding to 24 projects in 19 States. Information on the fiscal year 2016 grant awards can be found at:
<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY16.CESCOF-ProjectDescriptions.pdf>

The Service will make award selections for the competitive programs based upon the proposals submitted for consideration through this announcement. The range of grant awards has been between \$1,000 and \$24,000,000, but varies greatly by program. This year we are maintaining the \$2 million cap on HCP Land Acquisition grants and the \$1 million cap on Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants. The Service anticipates making award announcements for the fiscal year 2017 grant programs in fiscal year 2017 following final budget appropriations.

Awards for the nontraditional grants will be announced through a national press release and a memorandum to the Regional Directors of the Service for further notification of the applicants’ selection for an award. Notification of an award through a press release or letter from a Regional Office is not an authorization to begin performance. The final exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the prospective grantee and the Service’s representatives. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of CESCOF funding, nor should they purchase materials or begin work until such time as they receive the final grant award document signed by an authorized Service official.

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants:

Participation in the CESCO programs is only available to State agencies that have a current cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior. However, individuals or groups (for example land conservancies, cities, counties, community organizations, or conservation organizations) may work with a State agency that has a cooperative agreement on conservation efforts that are mutually beneficial, as a subgrantee.

The assistance provided to the State agency can include (but is not limited to) animal, plant, and habitat surveys; research; planning; monitoring; habitat protection, restoration, management, and acquisition; and public education.

The project must involve voluntary conservation efforts within the United States. As a voluntary program, we will not grant funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements of the ESA, including complying with a biological opinion under section 7 of the ESA or fulfilling mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring commitments of a HCP under section 10 of the ESA, or for projects that serve to satisfy other Federal regulatory requirements (e.g., mitigation for Clean Water Act permits). These funding restrictions do not apply to elements of HCPs that satisfy conservation obligations pursuant to State law or local ordinances that are above and beyond (additive to) the Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring requirements for that HCP provided that such proposals identify that general funds, fees collected or used, lands acquired, or other conservation actions presented as cost share in the grant proposal satisfy the specific obligations of a State or other non-Federal conservation obligation of the HCP, above and beyond the Federal mitigation requirement.

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 for more information. Exemptions: The SAM registration requirement does not apply to individuals submitting an application on their own behalf and not on behalf of a company or other for-profit entity, state, local or Tribal government, academia or other type of organization.

A. DUNS Registration

Request a DUNS number online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. U.S.-based entities may also request a DUNS number by telephone by calling the Dun & Bradstreet Government Customer Response Center, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 8 PM CST at the following numbers:

U.S. and U.S. Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711

Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)

For Hearing Impaired Customers Only call: 1-877-807-1679 (TTY Line)

Once assigned a DUNS number, entities are responsible for maintaining up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet.

B. Entity Registration in SAM

Register in SAM online at <http://www.sam.gov/>. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly urged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure that their information is up to date and in synch with changes that may have been made to DUNS and IRS information. Foreign entities who wish to be paid directly to a United States bank account must enter and maintain valid and current banking information in SAM.

C. Excluded Entities

Applicant entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program.

D. Cost Sharing or Matching:

A proposal must include a minimum 25 percent non-Federal cost share. The cost share may be cash or an in-kind contribution, such as volunteer efforts and donations of goods or services. This cost share requirement decreases to 10 percent if two or more States are contributors to the proposal and its activities as per Section 6 of the ESA. The Insular Areas of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands are exempt from grant matching requirements up to \$200,000 under all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Programs (based on a May 9, 2003, Director's Memorandum).

As defined in the Service Manual (521 FW 4.9), States may increase the rate of Federal participation from 75 percent to 90 percent of total grant costs when two or more States cooperate to conserve an endangered or threatened species of common interest.

Section 6 (d)(2)(ii), of the ESA, defines cooperation as "whenever two or more States having a common interest in one or more endangered or threatened species, . . . enter jointly into agreement with the Secretary." A cooperative action is one where two or more States work on a mutual problem. This may be an action outlined in a recovery plan for a species of multistate concern, an action outlined in a memorandum of agreement between cooperating States, an action described in cooperative grants, or an action outlined in a recovery implementation program.

The cooperating States may designate a lead State to coordinate with the Region. To seek an increased rate of Federal participation for a cooperative project within a grant, cooperating States **MUST** (emphasis added) provide the following documentation to the Regional Director with the grant proposal: Documentation of the cooperative action entered into by the cooperating States, which may be in any form (e.g., memorandum, letter of agreement, recovery plan, implementation program) that meets the needs of the cooperating States, provided it contains the responsibilities and work to be carried out by **EACH** (emphasis added) of the cooperating States. Examples follow:

- (1) Either (a) one State submits an Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and a letter of

agreement from another State sharing cooperative efforts, or (b) each State identifies the joint recovery action from the recovery plan in existing Applications for Federal Assistance (SF 424).

(2) Each cooperating State submits a proposal for the joint project and separate Applications for Federal Assistance (SF 424).

(3) When one or more States are participating in a recovery implementation program, one or more may submit separate Application(s) for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and certification that they are participating in the recovery implementation program, such as "The Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program."

Each cooperating State is responsible for submitting performance and financial reports related to the joint project, when they are actively participating in Federal reimbursement funding. Incomplete work by any one of the cooperating States may result in a recovery of Federal funds from all States, if it is determined that the joint cooperative objective will not be accomplished.

Documentation describing the role of each State in a multistate proposal must be provided with the proposal if the applicants are requesting a reduced cost share. We suggest that following example one or two above most clearly identifies the joint participation in a given project.

Management costs may be used as part of the State cost share for these grants provided that funds sufficient to cover the management costs for a specified time period are secured at the time the land or easement is purchased **AND** provided that the proportion of Federal funding provided for management does not exceed the proportion of Federal funding provided for the land or easement purchase. In other words, the amount of funding for management costs to be included as part of the grant, may not exceed the purchase price for the land or easement.

We cannot reimburse you for the time that you expend or costs that you incur in developing a project or preparing an application, or in any discussions or negotiations you may have with us prior to the award. Pre-award costs will not be allowed. We will not accept such expenditures of your cost share.

E. Other:

The following additional criteria apply to all CESCO grants and **must be satisfied** for a proposal to be considered for funding:

A proposal cannot include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) costs.

A proposal cannot seek funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements of the Act, including complying with a biological opinion under Section 7 of the ESA or fulfilling Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring requirements of an HCP permitted under Section 10 of the ESA, or that serve to satisfy other Federal regulatory requirements (e.g., mitigation for Clean Water Act permits). An exception is granted for HCPs that include conservation obligations pursuant to State law or local ordinances that are above and beyond

(additive to) the Federal mitigation requirements for that HCP. Proposals may be submitted that include as non-Federal match general funds, fees collected or used, lands acquired, or other actions (e.g., other State permit requirements) to satisfy State or other non-Federal conservation obligations of the HCP, above and beyond the Federal mitigation requirement.

State administrative costs must either be assumed by the State or included in the proposal in accordance with Federal requirements. Grants may not be submitted to cover administrative costs alone.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance: To be eligible for funding under the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance program, a proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a proposal does not meet these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for HCPs that have open CESCf grants awarded in or prior to FY 2012. All CESCf grants for a specific HCP planning effort awarded in FY2012 or earlier must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2017 proposal for the same planning effort in order to be considered for funding. Service policy is to allow for up to three years from the date of obligation for the expenditure of CESCf funds. Grants awarded in or before FY2012 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service.
2. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCf grant funding awarded to the HCP and the progress that has been made toward completion of the previous grant(s).
3. Proposals must include a list of discrete activities to be funded and each activity in the proposal must have an identified starting point and end point. Examples of discrete activities include developing public outreach brochures, gathering baseline data for an HCP, or preparing a draft HCP or associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. For proposals involving an ongoing project, funding cannot be sought to support activities to meet deliverables that were identified for completion through prior year funding. For example, if a prior planning assistance grant was awarded to an HCP to complete a draft NEPA document, funding cannot be sought to complete a draft NEPA document in FY2017. However, funding can be sought to complete a final NEPA document in FY2017 unless this activity was specified as a deliverable of a previous grant award.
4. The proposal must be for activities to develop a new HCP. Proposals for amendments to existing approved HCPs will not be accepted.

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition: To be eligible for funding under the HCP Land Acquisition program, a land acquisition proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a land acquisition proposal does not meet all of these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. The land acquisition complements, but does not replace, Federal mitigation requirements contained in the HCP.
2. The land acquisition must be associated with approved (permitted) HCPs.
3. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for HCPs that have open CESCO grants awarded in or prior to FY 2012. All CESCO grants awarded in or before FY2012 under a specific HCP must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2017 proposal under the same HCP in order for it to be considered for funding. Service policy is to allow for up to three years from the date of obligation for the expenditure of CESCO funds. Grants awarded in or before FY2012 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service.
4. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCO grant funding awarded to the HCP and the progress that has been made toward completion of previous grant(s).
5. The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with the grant is/are identified. NOTE: Evidence demonstrating that the landowners are willing sellers (i.e., a letter or other form of written acknowledgment) will be required prior to transfer of funds.

Federal land acquisition grant programs fund the purchase of land at market value, from willing sellers. Market value must be determined by appraisals performed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and all other applicable laws and regulations. Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal completed to Federal standards and appraisal review completed to Federal standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or a non-Federal subgrantee, or included in the total cost of the proposal.

6. The proposal must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the habitat in perpetuity, consistent with the conservation needs of the species.
7. Only one proposal per HCP may be submitted. However, a proposal may include more than one parcel for funding consideration. For regional HCPs with subarea plans, please submit multiple acquisition proposals under the one regional plan title. The proposal must specifically identify the parcel to be acquired in order to be considered. We encourage you to include more than one parcel in the proposal in the event the transaction for the highest priority acquisition cannot be completed; subject to the outcome of fund

reassignment procedures, funding of the next highest priority parcel acquisition identified in the proposal may be approved. In addition, acquisition of more than one parcel per HCP may be funded. If you submit more than one parcel for consideration in your proposal, you must include the relative acquisition priorities for each parcel, the price of each parcel, and the amount of the request (purchase price minus the non-Federal match) for each parcel.

8. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant Program.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants: To be eligible for funding under the Recovery Land Acquisition program, a land acquisition proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a land acquisition proposal does not meet all of these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for RLA projects that have open CESCO grants awarded in or prior to FY 2012. All CESCO grants awarded in FY2012 and earlier for a specific project must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2017 proposal for the same project in order for it to be considered for funding. Grants awarded in or before FY2012 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service before the funds can be drawn down.
2. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCO grant funding awarded to the project and the progress that has been made toward completion of previous grant(s).
3. Habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for the purposes of conservation (this can include easements deeded in perpetuity or other similar instruments).
4. The funds must contribute to the implementation of an approved final or draft recovery plan for at least one listed species. An exception will ONLY be made with sufficient justification, according to the following: (1) newly listed species where sufficient time (2 ½ years) for development of a recovery plan has not passed, (2) if the species is exempt from the requirement for development of a recovery plan, or (3) if a recovery plan has not been developed, but the species conservation planning efforts have identified land acquisition priorities. All exceptions will require a narrative justification.
5. The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with the grant is identified. NOTE: Evidence demonstrating that the landowners are willing sellers (i.e., a letter or other form of written acknowledgment) will be required prior to transfer of funds.

Federal land acquisition grant programs fund the purchase of land at market value, from willing sellers. Market value must be determined by appraisals performed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and all other applicable laws and regulations. Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for

funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal completed to Federal standards and appraisal review completed to Federal standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or a non-Federal subgrantee, or included in the total cost of the proposal.

6. The proposal must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the habitat in perpetuity consistent with the conservation needs of the species.
7. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant Program.

IV. Application Requirements

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

A. Application for Federal Assistance Form

A completed, signed and dated Application for Federal Assistance form. This form can be found at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=16>. Do not include other Federal sources of funding, requested or approved, in the total entered in the "Federal" funding box on the Application for Federal Assistance form. Enter only the amount being requested under this program in the "Federal" funding box. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the total funding entered in the "Other" box.

B. Project Narrative

The narrative description of your project proposal should specifically address each of the eligibility criteria described above and each of the ranking criteria included in the evaluation forms found in Section VI (Application Review.) Project descriptions that clearly address the specific ranking criteria in an organized manner will facilitate proposal review and scoring. We recommend the following format for the project narrative:

NEED: Why is the project being undertaken?

OBJECTIVE: What is to be accomplished during the period of the project pursuant to the stated need? (Specify fully what is to be accomplished within the time, money, and staffing allocated and specify end point.)

EXPECTED RESULTS OR BENEFITS: How will the project improve fish and wildlife resources or benefit the public? Try to provide quantifiable or verifiable resource benefits.

APPROACH: How will the objective be attained? Include specific procedures, schedules, key cooperators and respective roles.

LOCATION: Where will the work be done? Describe habitat type(s) to be affected and relevant ecosystem/watershed characterization.

ESTIMATED COST: Provide a detailed breakdown of what it will cost to attain each objective of the proposal.

C. Budget Form

Complete the Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A) or Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF 424C) form. Use the SF 424A if your project does not include construction and the SF 424C if the project includes construction or land acquisition. The budget forms are available on the Internet at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. When developing your budget, keep in mind that financial assistance awards and subawards are subject to the Federal cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, as applicable to the recipient organization type. Links to the full text of the Federal cost principles are available on the Internet at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>.

Multiple Federal Funding Sources: If the project budget includes multiple Federal funding sources, you must show the funds being requested from this Federal program *separately* from any other requested/secured Federal sources of funding on the budget form. For example, enter the funds being requested from this Federal program in the first row of the Budget Summary section of the form and then enter funding related to other Federal programs in the subsequent row(s). Be sure to enter each Federal program's CFDA number in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number for this Federal program appears on the first page of this funding opportunity.

D. Budget Justification

In a separate narrative titled "**Budget Justification**", explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. Detail how the SF 424 Budget Object Class Category totals were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal cost principles requires the Service's approval and estimate its cost.

If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, provide a list of that equipment, including the Federal funding source.

The proposal must include a reasonably detailed budget indicating how the funding will be used and how each partner is contributing to the project. The proposal must also indicate the time commitment for maintaining the project's benefits.

The project proposal should also indicate whether partial funding of the project is practicable and, if so, what specific portion(s) of the project could be implemented with what level of funding. A project proposal that is a part of a longer-term initiative will be considered; however, the proposed project's objectives, benefits, and tasks must stand on their own as

there are no assurances that additional funding will be awarded in subsequent years for associated or complementary projects.

Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal completed to Federal standards and appraisal review completed to Federal standards.

Required Indirect Cost Statement: All applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate must include in the budget justification narrative one of the following statements and attach to their application any required documentation identified in the applicable statement:

"We are:

1. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is attached.
2. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We are required to prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation to support those costs.
3. A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, please use one of the statements above or below] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement is attached.
4. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.
5. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. However, in the event an award is made, we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimus* indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs as defined in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, section 200.68. We understand that the 10% *de minimus* rate will apply for the life of the award, including any future extensions for time, and that the rate cannot be changed even if we do establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period

6. A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either "Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program" or "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network"], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that the basis for direct costs will be the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, and that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.
7. A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

All applicants are hereby notified of the following:

- Recipients without an approved indirect cost rate are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award. Accepting the 10% *de minimus* rate as a condition of award is an approved rate.
- Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award.
- Only the indirect costs calculated against the Federal portion of the total direct costs may be charged to the Federal award. Recipients may not charge to their Service award any indirect costs calculated against the portion of total direct costs charged to themselves or charged to any other project partner, Federal and non-Federal alike.
- Recipients must have prior written approval from the Service to transfer unallowable indirect costs to amounts budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements under the award.
- Recipients are prohibited from shifting unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Applicants who are individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, do not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

For more information on indirect cost rates, see the Service's **Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements** guidance document on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

Negotiating an Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior: Entities that do not have a NICRA must first have an open, active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your cognizant agency, your indirect cost rate will be negotiated by the Interior Business Center (IBC). For more information, contact the IBC at:

Indirect Cost Services

Acquisition Services Directorate, Interior Business Center

U.S. Department of the Interior

2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430

Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: 916-566-7111

Email: ics@nbc.gov

Internet address: http://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/Indirect_Cost_Services/index.cfm

- E. Single Audit Reporting Statements:** As required in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Subpart F, all U.S. states, local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. All U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government and non-profit applicants must provide a statement regarding if your organization was/was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the organization's most recently closed fiscal year and, if so, state if that report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Single Audit Database website (<http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>) and provide the EIN under which that report was submitted. Include these statements at the end of the Project Narrative in a section titled "**Single Audit Reporting Statements**".
- F. Assurances:** Include the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form available online at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. Use the **Assurances for Construction Programs (SF 424D)** for construction and land acquisition projects. Use the **Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424B)** for all other projects. Signing this form does not mean that all items on the form are applicable. The form contains language that states that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program.
- G. Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:** Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A- Certification Regarding Lobbying. If you/your organization have/has made or agrees to

make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with this proposal AND the Federal share exceeds \$100,000, complete and submit the **SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** form. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

- H. Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** Applicants must notify the Service in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that are known at the time of application or that may arise during the life of this award, in the event an award is made. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the recipient, the recipient's employees, or the recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, the applicant's employees, or the applicant's future subrecipients in the matter. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service Project Officer in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the applicant to reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in the project not being select for funding.

Application Checklist

- ☐ **SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance:** A complete, signed and dated SF 424, SF 424-Mandatory, or SF 424-Individual form.
- ☐ **Project narrative**
- ☐ **Single Audit Reporting statement:** If a U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government, or non-profit organization, statements regarding applicability of and compliance with Single Audit reporting requirements.
- ☐ **SF 424 budget form:** A complete SF 424A or SF 424C Budget Information form.
- ☐ **Budget justification**
- ☐ **Federally-funded equipment list:** If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, a list of that equipment.
- ☐ **NICRA:** When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
- ☐ **SF 424 Assurances form:** Signed and dated SF 424B or SF 424D Assurances form.
- ☐ **SF LLL form:** If applicable, completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form.
- ☐ **Conflict of Interest statement,** when applicable.

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Instructions

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

“Traditional” Conservation Grants: Service Regional Offices will independently set submission dates and times for the “Traditional” Conservation Grant Program. You should contact the Regional Program Coordinator listed in Section VIII (Agency Contacts) for further information regarding “Traditional” Conservation Grant submission dates and times.

Nontraditional Grants: Grant project proposals submitted by hardcopy must be received by the appropriate Regional Program Coordinator listed in Section VIII by March 17, 2017. The proposals must be received at the appropriate office by 5:00 pm in that time zone. To confirm the receipt of your proposal, you must contact the Regional Program Coordinator listed in Section VIII.

Grant project proposals submitted electronically through the Grants.gov internet site must be received by March 17, 2017. Applicants will receive notice electronically through Grants.gov to confirm receipt of the proposal. Applicants are responsible for ensuring proposals are successfully submitted via Grants.gov. If applicants do not receive a confirmation receipt, they should seek assistance from support staff at Grants.gov by visiting <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html> or by calling 1-800-518-4726. Proposals not received by the date provided above will not be reviewed nor considered as eligible for the competition.

Intergovernmental Review: Before submitting an application, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the following website (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/) to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental review of Federal Programs.” E.O. 12372 was issued to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The E.O. allows each state to designate an entity to perform this function. The official list of designated entities is posted on the website. Contact your state’s designated entity for more information on the process the state requires to be followed when applying for assistance. States that do not have a designated entity listed on the website have chosen not to participate in the review process.

While the Service will accept both hard copy and electronic submissions of proposals, we strongly encourage States and Territories to submit their applications electronically through www.Grants.gov. Electronic submission will facilitate in the timely review and processing of applications and assist the Service in meeting its goal to obligate CESC/Section 6 funds within 120 days of the award announcement. Applications must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov or by mail to the appropriate Regional Office as indicated in Section VIII. We will **ONLY** accept electronic applications that are submitted through the Grants.gov Internet site. We will not accept any other form of electronic application.

Download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov to begin the application process. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer

makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Please select **ONE** of the submission options described below.

To submit an application by mail:

For hard copy application submissions, your project proposal must: 1) not be bound in any manner (except by a single binder clip); 2) not be submitted by facsimile; 3) be printed on only one side of the paper; 4) include page numbers; 5) not include any paper larger than 8.5 by 11 inches; 6) include one signed original and two signed copies of the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and supporting information; 7) be received by the appropriate Regional Office listed in Section VIII by March 17, 2017.

To submit an application through Grants.gov:

For electronic application submission through the Grants.gov internet site (www.grants.gov), you must follow all instructions provided by Grants.gov to ensure that your electronic application is received by March 17, 2017. We will **ONLY** accept electronic applications that are submitted through the Grants.gov internet site. We will not accept any other form of electronic application. For applicants that intend to apply electronically through Grants.gov, we highly recommend that you begin your application process well in advance of the closing date for submission of applications. The application process through Grants.gov requires that applicants complete a registration process and requires that all materials submitted are completely and accurately filled out. Registration can take between three to five business days, or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.

Important note on Grants.gov application attachment file names: Please do not assign application attachments file names longer than 20 characters, including spaces. Assigning file names longer than 20 characters will create issues in the automatic interface between Grants.gov and the Service's financial assistance management system.

We encourage you to contact the Regional Program Coordinator listed in Section VIII prior to submitting a project proposal if you have questions regarding what information must be submitted with the project proposal. An incomplete proposal will not be considered for funding.

VI. Application Review

Criteria: To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted by a State agency with an approved cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior. Individual project proposals will compete with other State submissions for funding.

The project selection process for "Traditional" Conservation Grants is generally conducted by Service Ecological Services staff in conjunction with the States.

The following ranking criteria will be used by Regional Office staff to evaluate Nontraditional grant project proposals. **Proposals should be submitted with the ranking criteria, as described below, in mind. Project narratives that clearly address the specific ranking criteria in an organized manner will facilitate proposal review and scoring.**

**HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2017 EVALUATION FORM**

FWS Regional Staff: Please fill out this form completely. You may attach additional written explanations for the categories in this form if the space provided is inadequate.

Project Title _____

Region _____

State(s) _____

HCP name (As entered in ECOS) _____

Service contact for more information _____

Estimated total cost of proposal _____

Percent of cost to be borne by non-Federal entities (list by entity and % of cost) _____

Amount of funding requested (total cost minus the non-Federal match) _____

Regional priority points for this proposal* _____ (0 – 25 points)

* Each Region will have 25 points to distribute to the eligible Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grant proposals. That is, 25 points for all eligible proposals, not for each eligible proposal. The 25 points may be applied to grant proposal scores in any amount deemed appropriate by the Regional Director to reflect the Service and State priorities for funding. Please consider project readiness and conservation in the context of climate change when applying these discretionary points.

Justification for Regional priority _____

Total points available = 100 points + _____ Regional priority pts (maximum 125 points)

SPECIES BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the proposal will be to listed and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP. A covered species is any species (listed or unlisted) that is proposed to be identified on the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit.

Federally listed species are defined as those species listed as threatened or endangered by the Federal Government through section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Unlisted species include candidate, proposed, State listed and all other species.

1) Planning efforts that will benefit more species will score higher. Both listed and unlisted species that are proposed to be covered by the HCP will be considered.

Score: Number of species proposed to be covered by the HCP (listed on the permit) (provides more weight for including unlisted species) (15 pts maximum)

- ___ 1 species (1 pt)
- ___ 2-5 species (5 pts)
- ___ 6-10 species (10 pts)
- ___ 11+ species (15 pts)

Justification (identify species):

2) Planning efforts for HCPs that will provide greater benefit to covered species (both listed and unlisted) will score higher. This factor should be scored based on benefits to the individual species as opposed to the aggregate. HCP planning efforts with a focus on climate change adaptation should be addressed here to identify the conservation benefits to be derived by avoiding or offsetting climate change impacts, thereby reducing or eliminating the threats to species proposed to be covered.

High benefit to conservation: The benefits to species will be considered **high**, if through the HCP planning effort,

- 75% or greater of the species' range-wide habitat or an essential piece of habitat will be protected; or
- a major population necessary for recovery may be protected; or
- a source population that provides individuals for future emigration is protected; or
- major threats to the species will be eliminated.

Low benefit to conservation: The benefits to species will be considered **low**, if through the HCP planning effort, only a small percentage (20% or less) of the species' range-wide habitat will be protected, individual populations(s) to be covered contribute little to the overall recovery of the species, and/or threats to the covered species are not imminent.

To facilitate in the review process, you may consider including a table identifying ALL of the species proposed to be covered by the HCP, the expected benefit to the species, the degree of benefit (low, medium, high,) and justification for the degree of benefit designated. An example is shown below.

Score: Amount of benefit the HCP will potentially provide to species proposed to be covered. (To score maximum points, the applicant must document that the HCP will potentially result in a major benefit to at least one species. 15 pts maximum)

- ___ Low benefit to conservation (5 pt)
- ___ Medium benefit to conservation (10 pts)
- ___ High benefit to conservation (15 pts)

Covered Species	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit (low, medium, high)	Justification
Longhorn fairy shrimp	Preservation of essential vernal pool habitat	High	The HCP will cover 80% of the species range-wide habitat.

Justification:

Total points for species benefits (sum of 1-2): _____

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the proposed HCP will be for the covered species (listed and unlisted.)

3) Lands that require little or no management to provide benefits for covered species will score higher in this evaluation factor. The level of management expected to be necessary is based on an evaluation of the biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes. Biotic factors include the structure and composition of plant and animal communities. Abiotic factors include soil, hydrology, natural topography, and salinity gradients. Ecological processes include succession, trophic energy flows, and disturbance regimes.

Score: When considered in the context of the surrounding landscape, the HCP plan area contains _____ of the naturally occurring biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes necessary to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem that contains the habitat necessary to support the covered species and other non-covered species associated with that ecosystem. (15 pts maximum)

More points will be awarded for HCP plan areas with fully-functioning ecosystems that will require little or no restoration/management to benefit the covered species.

- ☐ None: few ecological processes intact and/or substantial restoration needed (0 pts)
- ☐ Some/Most: most core ecological processes intact (8 pts)
- ☐ All: pristine ecological processes intact (15 pts)

Justification:

4) Plan areas for developing HCPs that cover a large area are more likely to consider landscape-level or ecosystem-level planning issues. This type of regional planning benefits numerous species within an ecosystem while streamlining ESA compliance for the smaller landowners within the planning area.

Score: Size of plan area to be covered by the HCP (provides more weight for large plan areas) (15 pts maximum)

- ☐ 0-100 acres (1 pt)
- ☐ 101-1,000 acres (5 pts)
- ☐ 1,001-10,000 acres (10 pts)
- ☐ 10,001+ acres (15 pts)

Total points for ecosystem benefits (sum of 3-4): _____

FOSTERING HCP PARTNERSHIPS

The purpose of this section is to emphasize the importance of involving stakeholders in the development of the HCP. This section includes consideration of the number of partners and the amount of cost share contributions.

5) Proposals with a larger number of stakeholders involved in the development of the HCP will score higher. Stakeholders are public or private entities that will play a significant role in the development of the HCP, that is, entities that participate on the HCP steering committee or that will make a contribution in the scoping for, and preparation of, the HCP. The Service, the State agency applying for the grant, and consultants or consulting firms who are preparing the HCP should not be counted. Please identify **each** stakeholder as well as the **specific contribution** to be made by each stakeholder. To facilitate in the review process, you may consider using a chart

similar to the example provided below. Please note: points will not be awarded for stakeholders listed without identifying their specific contributions to the project.

Score: Number of stakeholders involved in the development of the HCP. (20 pts maximum)

- ___ 1-5 stakeholders (5 pts)
- ___ 6-10 stakeholders (10 pts)
- ___ Greater than 10 stakeholders (20 pts)

Stakeholder/Partner Name	Role	Contribution (cash or in-kind)
Non-Governmental Organization X	Preparation of draft NEPA documents	\$75,000, Staff biologist (in-kind)

List each stakeholder and specifically describe the stakeholder's role in development of the HCP:

6) Commitment to the successful development of an HCP can be evidenced by cost share contributions. Cost share is the percent of the total project cost that will be provided by non-Federal partners. Proposals that include a greater than minimum cost share contribution will be ranked higher. When both the State and local governments are involved, cost sharing by both governments is preferred.

Score: Percentage of cost share provided by non-Federal partners. Rounding of the dollar amounts and/or percentages is not acceptable to meet the minimum cost share requirement or to receive additional points on the evaluation form. (12 pts maximum)

- ___ Minimum 25% (or 10% where two or more States are involved, or 0% (up to \$200,000) for identified Insular Areas) (0 pts)
- ___ Each additional 5% (2 pts)

Total points for HCP partnerships (sum of 5-6): _____

DELIVERY OR COMPLETION

This section is to recognize proposals that will result in the initiation or completion of planning activities as well as plans that include discrete activities which can be completed within one year.

7) Proposals to initiate planning for a new HCP or to complete an HCP already under

development will score higher.

Proposals that involve ongoing projects may not claim initiation or finalization points if these points were claimed in proposals selected for funding in previous fiscal years. For example, if a funded project received points for initiating or finalizing the planning process in FY2016, a proposal for the same HCP cannot claim these points again in FY2017.

Score: Initiation or completion of the planning process. (4 pts maximum)

___ is instrumental in initiating a planning process (4 pt)

___ finalizes a planning process (4 pts)

Justification:

8) Activities which can be completed within one year, as opposed to the completion of the entire HCP over multiple years, will score higher. Each discrete activity included in the proposal must have an identified starting point and end point. Discrete activities include developing public outreach brochures, gathering baseline data for an HCP, or preparation of a draft HCP. **ALL** discrete activities identified in the proposal for which funding is sought must be completed in one year to receive points in this category. It is **NOT** sufficient for one or more discrete activities to be completed in one year with other identified discrete activities being completed in subsequent years, if funding for those additional activities is being sought through this proposal.

For proposals involving ongoing projects, a State may not claim these points if a previously funded phase of the project claimed the points and failed to complete **ALL** of the activities associated with that grant within the one year period. For example, if a proposal received these points in FY 2014 and failed to complete the associated tasks by December 2015, a State cannot claim these four points for the same planning effort in FY 2017. (4 pts maximum)

___ The activity(ies) for which funding is requested cannot be completed within 1 year (0 pts)

___ The activity(ies) for which funding is requested can be completed within 1 year (4 pts)

One year, for the purposes of this grant program, is defined as the close of the calendar year subsequent to the calendar year in which funding was appropriated. For example, for funding appropriated in fiscal year 2017, ALL discrete activities for which funding is sought must be completed by December 31, 2018, in order to receive the additional points in this category.

Justification:

Total points for Delivery (sum of 7-8): _____

TOTAL POINTS FOR THIS PROPOSAL (sum of 1-8 above): _____

**HCP LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2017 EVALUATION FORM**

FWS Regional Staff: Please fill out this form completely. You may attach additional written explanations for the categories in this form if the space provided is inadequate.

☐ Single Species HCP Land Acquisition project

Project Title _____

Region _____

State(s) _____

HCP name (As entered in ECOS) _____

Permit number _____

Service contact for more information _____

Acreage of land acquisition (break down acreage by parcel if more than one parcel is proposed for acquisition) _____

Estimated total cost of land acquisition (including management) _____

Percent of cost to be borne by non-Federal entities (list by entity and % of cost) _____

Amount of funding requested (total cost minus the non-Federal match) (break down by parcel if more than one is proposed for acquisition) _____

Regional priority points for this proposal* _____ (0 – 25 points)

* Each Region will have 25 points to distribute to the eligible Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant proposals. That is, 25 points for all eligible proposals, not for each eligible proposal. The 25 points may be applied to grant proposal scores in any amount deemed appropriate by the Regional Director to reflect the Service and State priorities for funding. Please consider project readiness and conservation in the context of climate change when applying these discretionary points.

Justification for Regional priority _____

Total points available = 100 points + _____ Regional priority pts (maximum 125 points)

SPECIES BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the land acquisition will be for listed and unlisted species covered by the HCP. Federally listed species are defined as those species listed as threatened or endangered by the Federal Government through Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Unlisted species include candidate, proposed, State listed and all other species. A **covered species** is any species (listed or unlisted) that is identified on the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit.

Listed Species

1) Acquisitions that benefit more covered listed species will score higher. Only those federally listed threatened or endangered species that are covered in the HCP and will benefit from the proposed land acquisition should be counted. Listed species that are expected to benefit from the land acquisition but not covered by the permit should not be counted.

Score: Number of federally listed species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** that will benefit from the specific land acquisition identified in this proposal. Species benefit must be tied to the specific parcels, or grouping of parcels, proposed for acquisition. Please note, species listed here must also be considered in ranking factor two along with the degree of expected benefit to the species. (15 points maximum)

- _____ 1 species (1 pt)
- _____ 2-5 species (5 pts)
- _____ 6-10 species (10 pts)
- _____ 11+ species (15 pts)

Justification (identify species):

2) Acquisitions that provide greater benefit to covered listed species will score higher. HCP land acquisition projects with a focus on climate change adaptation should be addressed here to identify the conservation benefits to be derived by avoiding or offsetting climate change impacts, thereby reducing or eliminating threats to listed species covered by the HCP.

The benefit to covered listed species will be considered **major** if, if through the acquisition:

- 75% or greater of the species' range-wide habitat or an essential piece of habitat will be protected; or
- a major population necessary for recovery may be protected; or
- a source population that provides individuals for future emigration is protected; or
- major threats to the species will be eliminated

The benefit to covered listed species will be considered **minor** if, through the acquisition:

- 20% or less of the species' range-wide habitat will be protected, individual populations(s) contribute little to the overall recovery of the species, and/or threats to the covered species are not imminent.

To facilitate in the review process, you may consider including a table identifying EACH of the covered listed species expected to benefit from the acquisition, the expected magnitude of the benefit (major or minor), and a justification for the degree of benefit designated. An example is provided below.

For proposals including multiple species, the majority (more than 50%) of the benefits to species must be shown and justified as major in order to score the full 15 points under this ranking criterion. For example, a proposal covering five listed species must include justifications showing major benefits (as defined above) to at least three of the five species in order to score the full 15 points.

Score: Magnitude of benefits for listed species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** that will result from the land acquisition. (15 points maximum)

- _____ Mostly minor benefits will result for the listed species (1 pt)
_____ A combination of major and minor benefits will result for the listed species (10 pts)
_____ Mostly major benefits will result for more than half of the listed species (15 pts)

Covered Listed Species	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit (major or minor)	Justification
Longhorn fairy shrimp	Protection of essential habitat	Major	80% of the species habitat will be protected through the acquisition of these X acres

Justification:

Unlisted Species

3) Only acquisitions that benefit more covered unlisted species will score higher. Unlisted species include species proposed for Federal listing, candidates for Federal listing, State listed species, and other species not federally listed as threatened or endangered. Unlisted species that are expected to benefit from the land acquisition but are not covered by the permit should not be counted.

Score: Number of unlisted (including State-listed species), proposed and candidate species for Federal listing **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** that will benefit from the land acquisition. Species benefit must be tied to the specific parcels, or grouping of parcels, proposed for acquisition. Please note, species listed here must also be considered in ranking factor 4 along with the degree of expected benefit to the species. (10 points maximum)

- _____ 0 species (0 pts) - **Skip to Question 5**
- _____ 1-5 species (3 pts)
- _____ 6-10 species (6 pts)
- _____ 11+ species (10 pts)

Justification (identify species):

4) Acquisitions that provide greater benefit to unlisted covered species will score higher. HCP land acquisition projects with a focus on climate change adaptation should be addressed here to identify the conservation benefits to be derived by avoiding or offsetting climate change impacts, thereby reducing or eliminating threats to unlisted species covered by the HCP.

The benefit to covered unlisted species will be considered **major** if, if through the acquisition:

- 75% or greater of the species' range-wide habitat or an essential piece of habitat will be protected; or
- a major population necessary for recovery may be protected; or
- a source population that provides surplus individuals for future emigration is protected; or
- major threats to the species will be eliminated

The benefit to covered unlisted species will be considered **minor** if, through the acquisition:

- 20% or less of the species' range-wide habitat will be protected, individual populations(s) contribute little to the overall recovery of the species, and/or threats to the covered species are not imminent.

To facilitate in the review process, you may consider including a table identifying EACH of the covered unlisted species expected to benefit from the acquisition, the expected magnitude of the benefit (major or minor), and justification for the degree of benefit designated. An example is provided below.

For proposals including multiple species, the majority (more than 50%) of the benefits to species must be shown and justified as major in order to score the full 15 points under this ranking criterion. For example, a proposal covering five unlisted species must include justifications showing major benefits (as defined above) to at least three of the five species in order to score the full 15 points.

Score: Magnitude of species benefits for unlisted species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit).** (10 points maximum)

- ☐ Mostly minor benefits will result for the unlisted species (1 pt)
☐ A combination of major and minor benefits will result for unlisted species (6 pts)
☐ Mostly major benefits will result for more than half of the unlisted species (10 pts)

Covered Listed Species	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit (major or minor)	Justification
Mid-valley fairy shrimp	Protection of essential habitat	Major	80% of the species habitat will be protected through the acquisition of these X acres

Justification:

Total points for species benefits (sum of 1-4): _____

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the land acquisition will be for the covered listed and unlisted species.

5) Lands that require little or no management to provide benefits for covered species will score higher in this evaluation factor. This habitat can include occupied or suitable unoccupied habitat. The level of management expected to be necessary is based on an evaluation of the biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes. Biotic factors include the structure and composition of plant and animal communities. Abiotic factors include soil, hydrology, natural topography, and salinity gradients. Ecological processes include succession, trophic energy flows, and disturbance regimes.

Score: When considered in the context of the surrounding landscape, the land targeted for acquisition contains _____ of the naturally occurring biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes necessary to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem that contains the habitat necessary to support the covered species associated with that ecosystem. (15 points maximum)

More points will be awarded for acquisition areas containing fully-functioning ecosystems that will require little or no restoration/management to benefit the covered species.

- _____ None: few ecological processes intact and/or substantial restoration needed (0 pts)
 _____ Some/Most: most core ecological processes intact (8 pts)
 _____ All: pristine ecological processes intact (15 pts)

Justification:

6) Land acquisitions that fill in critical components for land protection will score higher (e.g., lands that link two preserves together to reduce habitat fragmentation). HCP land acquisition projects with a focus on climate change adaptation should be addressed here to identify the conservation benefits to be derived through acquisition of the property in support of **covered (listed on the permit)** listed and unlisted species.

Score: Do the **lands proposed for acquisition** fill a critical void in the matrix of protected lands, such as a connection between protected areas or protection of a core population area? A justification **must** be included for each species for which the applicant is seeking points (15 points maximum)

- _____ To some degree for at least one listed species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** (5 pts)
 _____ To a great degree for one listed species and some degree for one or more listed or unlisted species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** (10 pts)
 _____ To a great degree for more than two species **covered by the HCP (listed on the permit)** (15 pts)

Justification:

Total points for ecosystem benefits (sum of 5-6): _____

FOSTERING HCP PARTNERSHIPS

The purpose of this section is to emphasize the importance of partners in significantly contributing to implementation of the HCP. This section includes consideration of the number of partners and amount of cost share contributions.

7) Proposals with a larger number of significant partners involved in the HCP will score higher. A significant partner is a public or private entity that is a significant player in the implementation of the HCP. For example, they are signatories to an implementing agreement, are signatories to some other agreement regarding participation in implementation, or received their own section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit. Subpermittees or entities receiving certificates of inclusion are not significant partners to an HCP; however, they typically make a contribution toward implementation in return for receiving the benefits of incidental take authorization. If an entity that is receiving incidental take authorization is also contributing toward the proposed land acquisition, an additional point is accrued. The Service and the State agency applying for the grant should not be counted.

Please identify **each** partner as well as the **specific contribution** to be made by each partner. To facilitate in the review process, you may consider using chart similar to the example provided below. Please note: points not will be awarded for partners listed without identifying their specific contributions to the project.

Score: Number of significant partners involved in the implementation of the HCP. (8 points maximum)

_____ 1-5 significant partners (1 point)

_____ 1-5 significant partners with contributions toward implementation of the HCP from non-significant partners (subpermittees or entities receiving certificates of inclusion and making a monetary contribution toward HCP implementation) (5 points)

_____ Greater than 5 significant partners (8 points)

Stakeholder/Partner Name	Role	Contribution (cash or in-kind)
County X	Signatory to the I.A.	\$40,000 of Staff time and development of the HCP

List each significant partner and describe in detail the significant partner's role in implementing the HCP:

8) Commitment to a successful HCP Land Acquisition project can be evidenced by cost share contributions. Cost share is the percent of the total project cost that will be provided by non-Federal partners. Proposals that include a greater than minimum cost share contribution will be ranked higher.

Score: Percentage of cost share provided by non-Federal partners. Rounding of the dollar amounts and/or percentages is not acceptable to meet the minimum cost share requirement or to receive additional points on the evaluation form. (12 points maximum)

____ Minimum 25% (or 10% where two or more States are involved, or 0% (up to
\$200,000) for identified Insular Areas) (0 pts)
____ Each additional 5% (2 pts)

Total points for HCP partnerships (sum of 7-8): _____

TOTAL POINTS FOR THIS PROPOSAL (sum of 1-8 above): _____

**RECOVERY LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2017 EVALUATION FORM**

FWS Regional Staff: Please fill out this form completely. You may attach additional written explanations for the categories in this form if the space provided is inadequate.

Project Title _____

Region _____

State(s) _____

Service contact for more information _____

Acreage of land acquisition (break down acreage by parcel if more than one parcel is proposed for acquisition) _____

Estimated total cost of the proposed project (i.e., Federal and non-Federal portions) _____

Percent of cost to be borne by non-Federal entities (list by entity and % of cost) _____

Amount of funding requested (total cost minus the non-Federal match) (break down by parcel if more than one is proposed for acquisition) _____

Regional priority points for this proposal* _____ (0 – 25 points)

* Each Region will have 25 points to distribute to the eligible Recovery Land Acquisition grant proposals. That is, 25 points for all eligible proposals, not for each eligible proposal. The 25 points may be applied to grant proposal scores in any amount deemed appropriate by the Regional Director to reflect the Service and State priorities for funding. Please consider project readiness and conservation in the context of climate change when applying these discretionary points.

Justification for Regional priority _____

Total points available = 100 points + _____ Regional priority pts (maximum 125 points)

SPECIES BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the land acquisition will be for listed and candidate species. Federally listed species are defined as those species listed as threatened or endangered by the Federal Government through section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Unlisted species include candidate, proposed, State listed and all other species.

1) Listed species benefits. The extent to which the habitat acquisition contributes to recovery. This factor should be scored based on benefits to the individual species as opposed to the aggregate. Consideration should be given to the magnitude of the benefit in terms of the proportion of the species range/area encompassed by the acquisition, the contribution to stated recovery goals, and whether the acquisition will allow for delisting or downlisting of a listed species. To score 20 points, the applicant must document that the proposal will potentially result in a high benefit to recovery of at least one listed species. A justification must be provided for each species covered by the proposal. (20 pts maximum)

___ Low benefit to recovery (acquisition will provide habitat that is currently unoccupied) (5 pts)

___ Medium benefit to recovery (acquisition is necessary to avoid a significant decline of the taxon {due to loss of habitat, increased threats, etc.}) (10 pts)

___ High benefit to recovery (acquisition is necessary to avoid extinction within the next five years, or the acquisition will assist the taxon achieve its recovery criteria within the next five years) (20 pts)

Justification:

2) Listed species recovery priority number. For those listed species that will benefit from the proposed acquisition that do not currently have an assigned priority number, you may calculate the appropriate number using the guidance provided in the *Federal Register* on September 21, 1983 (Pgs. 43098 - 43105, Vol. 48, No. 184 and Correction in FR notice of Nov. 15, 1983 Pg., 51985, Vol. 48, No. 221) (22 pts maximum)

___ 1 to 3 (10 pts)

___ 4 to 8 (5 pts)

___ 9 to 13 (2 pts)

___ 14 to 18 (1 pt)

Identify species and priority number assigned:

3) Number of species benefitted (listed and candidate only; at least one listed species must benefit). Draft recovery plans may only be considered if a Notice of Availability for the draft plan has been published in the *Federal Register*. (20 pts maximum)

___ Species with final recovery plans (8 pts for each species with a final plan)

___ Species with draft recovery plans (4 pts for each species with a draft plan)

___ Listed (without draft or final recovery plan) or candidate species (2 pts for each species)

Total points for species benefits (sum of 1-3): _____

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

The purpose of this section is to evaluate how beneficial the proposed land acquisition will be for the listed, unlisted (including State-listed species), proposed and candidate species. Recovery land acquisition projects with a focus on climate change adaptation should be addressed here to identify the conservation benefits to be derived through acquisition of the property in support of listed, unlisted (including State-listed species), proposed and candidate species.

4) Ecosystem benefits (20 pts maximum)

Function

___ Habitat fills a critical role in the life cycle of the primary species for which the land is acquired (8 pts)

___ Habitat requires little or no management to provide benefits to the primary species (4 pts)

Connectivity

___ Habitat links two existing protected areas together or is adjacent to existing protected areas, to reduce habitat fragmentation (8 pts)

Total points for ecosystem benefits (sum of 4): _____

COST SHARE CONTRIBUTIONS

5) Amount of cost share. A minimum of twenty-five percent in non-Federal cost share is required. If two or more States or Territories are contributors, the non-Federal cost share decreases to 10 percent. To be eligible for this reduction, each State must actively participate and each State's contribution must be described, e.g., an action in a recovery plan for a species of multi-State concern, in which two or more States or Territories are actively participating in recovery actions. Rounding of the dollar amounts and/or percentages is not acceptable to meet the minimum cost share requirement or to receive additional points on the evaluation form. (18 pts maximum)

___ Minimum 25% (or 10% where two or more States are involved, or 0% (up to \$200,000) for identified Insular Areas) (0 pts)

___ Each additional 5% (2 pts)

Total points for cost share contributions (sum of 5): _____

TOTAL POINTS FOR THIS PROPOSAL (sum of 1-5 above): _____

Review and Selection Process:

Proposals submitted for consideration in the "Traditional" Conservation Grants program will be reviewed by representatives from our Regional Offices (see VIII. Agency Contacts) and award selections will be made by the Regional Directors.

Recovery Land Acquisition proposals will compete at a regional level for funding. Within each Region, Service representatives will assess the applications and make funding recommendations to the Service's Regional Director. The Regional Director will use the recommendations in selecting projects, although geographic distribution of projects, the amount of funding requested for a project compared with the total amount of funding available, project readiness, and other such factors may also be considered. The Regional Director will then forward Regional recommendations to the Service's Director. Partial funding of one or more projects, when practicable, may be considered. After reviewing the Regional Directors' recommendations and the other factors, the Director will make funding selections.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance and HCP Land Acquisition proposals will compete at a national level for funding. A panel of Service representatives will assess the applications submitted from the Regional Offices at the national level and make funding recommendations to the Service's Director. The Director will use the panel member recommendations in selecting projects, although geographic distribution of projects, the amount of funding requested for a project compared with the total amount of funding available, unique single-species projects, project readiness, and other such factors may also be considered. Partial funding of one or more projects, when practicable, may be considered. After reviewing the panel members' recommendations and the other factors, the Service's Director will make funding selections.

In fiscal year 2017, 10 percent of the total amount of HCP Land Acquisition funding will be targeted to support proposals for single-species HCPs. The Service will also maintain a \$2 million cap on HCP Land Acquisition proposals and a \$1 million cap on HCP Planning Assistance proposals. Service Regional Directors will be provided with 25 points total in each of the Nontraditional programs to distribute among project proposals to reflect the collective priorities of the States and the Service. We ask Regional Directors to consider project readiness and conservation in the context of climate change when applying these discretionary points.

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Each fiscal year, for every entity receiving one or more awards in that fiscal year, the Service conducts a risk assessment based on eight risk categories. The result of this risk assessment is used to establish a monitoring plan for all awards to the entity in that fiscal year. The Service's risk assessment form is available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2462.pdf>.

VII. Award Administration

Award Notices: Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Service. The notice of award document will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests. Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 30 days of the final review decision.

Domestic Recipient Payments: Prior to award, the Service program office will contact you/your organization to either enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system or, if eligible, obtain approval from the Department of the Interior to be waived from using ASAP.

Domestic applicants subject to the SAM registration requirement (see Section III B.) who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP must maintain current banking information in SAM. Domestic applicants exempt from the SAM registration requirement who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP will be required to submit their banking information directly to the Service program. However, ***do NOT submit any banking information to the Service until it is requested from you by the Service program!***

Transmittal of Sensitive Data: Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the Service is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends that recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment. The Service strongly encourages recipients sending sensitive data in paper copy to use a courier mail service. Recipients may also contact their Service Project Officer and provide any sensitive data over the telephone.

Award Terms and Conditions: Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the notice of award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The Federal regulations applicable to Service awards are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>. If you do not have access to the Internet and require a full text copy

of the award terms and conditions, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Special Award Terms and Conditions:

A grant award document will specify the project requirements, such as the cost share, the project design, the time commitment for maintaining the project's benefits, and the reporting requirements, and provide for Service access to the project area in order to check on its progress. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of CESCO funding, nor should they purchase materials or begin work until such time as they receive the final grant award document signed by an authorized Service official.

Obligation of Funds: The Service's goal is to obligate CESCO funds to States within 120 days of the award announcement. States will assist the Service in meeting the 120 day target by providing the documents necessary for grant issuance as soon as possible following the grant award announcements.

Expenditure of Funds: Service policy is to allow for up to three years from the date of obligation for the expenditure of CESCO funds. Any extension will require the approval from the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please be aware that when the Service funds fire management on lands other than the National Wildlife Refuge System lands, the activity must be conducted according to Chapter 18 of the Service Fire Management Handbook Regarding Prescribed Burning Off-Service Lands at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/fireplanreview.pdf> and further clarified at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/m0299.pdf>.

Recipient Reporting Requirements:

Financial and Performance Reports: Interim financial reports and performance reports may be required. Interim reports will be required no more frequently than quarterly, and no less frequently than annually. A final financial report and a final performance report will be required and are due within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

Significant Developments Reports: Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service in writing as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

- Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

- Favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

The Service will specify in the notice of award document the reporting and reporting frequency applicable to the award.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Recipients are responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of this award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the recipient, the recipient's employees, or the recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under this award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the Recipient, the Recipient's employees, or the Recipient's subrecipients in the matter. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service Project Officer in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the Recipient, the Recipient's employee(s), or the Recipient's Subrecipient(s) that could reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of this award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures: Recipients and their subrecipients must disclose, in a timely manner and in writing, to the Service or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting this award. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (See 2 CFR 200.113, 2 CFR Part 180, and 31 U.S.C. 3321).

VIII. Agency Contacts

Please refer to the table below for a list of Regional Program Coordinators. Information on the CESCO is also available from the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:ES Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or electronically at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Table 2. List of Regional Program Coordinators and Where To Send Project Proposals			
Service Region	States or Territory where the project will occur	Where to send your CESCO project proposal	Regional CESCO Contact and Phone Number
Region 1	Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Eastside Federal Complex 911 N.E. 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181	David Leonard & Colleen Henson (503/231-2372) (503/231-6283)
Region 2	Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 500 Gold Avenue SW., Room 4012 Albuquerque, NM 87102	Stacey Stanford (505/248-6665)
Region 3	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services 5600 American Blvd. West Suite 990 Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458	Thomas Magnuson (612/713-5467)
Region 4	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30345	Drew Becker (RLA) (404/679-7226) David Dell (HCP) (404/679-7313)
Region 5	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035-9589	Sadie Stevens (413/253-8677)

Region 6	Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645 Lakewood, CO 80228	Amelia Orton-Palmer (303/236-4211)
Region 7	Alaska	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503-6199	Drew Crane (907/ 786-3323)
Region 8	California and Nevada	Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846	Dan Cox (HCP) (916/ 414-6539) Karen Jensen (RLA) (916/ 414-6557)

IX. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: The Paperwork Reduction Act requires us to tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether or not you have to respond. A response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity is required to receive funding. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this collection and assigned OMB Control No. 1018-0109 which expires on November 30, 2018. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average of 37 hours per application and 8 hours per performance report. These burden estimates include time for reviewing instructions and gathering data, but do not include the time needed to complete government-wide Standard Forms associated with the application and financial reporting. You may send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Policy and Directives Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

General Questions (applicable to all grant programs)

- 1. Q: Can grant funds be used to assist an entity with Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring requirements contained in an HCP or the section 10 permit conditions?**

A: No. A proposal cannot include actions required to satisfy a permittee's Federal mitigation requirements. A proposal can include actions that complement mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring actions. Proposals that include fees collected or used or lands acquired to satisfy the obligations of a State's conservation obligation can be submitted (e.g., fees collected or used or lands acquired that exceed the Federal permit requirements and are collected, used, or acquired to meet a State's conservation obligation of a joint HCP/NCCP). However, grant funds can assist in conservation obligations pursuant to State law or local ordinance that are above and beyond (or additive to) the Federal mitigation requirements for that HCP.

- 2. Q: Can grant funds be used to help an entity come into compliance with a biological opinion?**

A: No. Federal action agencies and their permittees are responsible for meeting the terms and conditions in biological opinions.

- 3. Q: Can grant funds be used to assist an entity in complying with other Federal regulations?**

A: No. We do not intend to grant funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements at the Federal level (e.g., mitigation for Clean Water Act permits).

- 4. Q: What is the definition of a "Candidate Species" for the purposes of the CESCO grant programs?**

A: Candidate Species as defined at 50 CFR 424.02(b) means "any species being considered by the Secretary for listing as an endangered or a threatened species, but not yet the subject of a proposed rule." Therefore, any species identified by the State or Territorial agency that has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Service may be considered a candidate for the purposes of the CESCO grant programs provided that upon selecting a project for an award, or in forwarding that project for consideration for an award, the Regional Director will affirm that the species is being considered for listing, and upon conclusion of the grant project, make a determination of whether the species should or should not continue to be considered for listing as an endangered or threatened species.

5. Q: Can Section 6 grant monies be applied to projects that have obtained funds through another Federal nexus, such as the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration programs?

A: Yes. These grants may be used to fund distinct aspects of complex or ongoing projects that have obtained grant funds from other Federal sources. Full disclosure of the project including, but not limited to, the specific projects and respective funding from each Federal program must be fully described in the proposal. However, accomplishments anticipated under the Section 6 grant should stand on their own and not rely on monies obtained from other Federal sources. If it is an ongoing project, previous phases must already be successfully completed. Use of Section 6 funds for these purposes must adhere to all Federal regulations governing such use.

6. Q: Can projects that have multiple sources of Federal funding use these other sources of funding as part of the non-Federal match?

A: No. Any and all sources of Federal funding are considered Federal, and therefore cannot be included as part of the non-Federal match.

7. Q: Can National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funds be used as part of the non-Federal cost share?

A: Yes and No. NFWF funds cannot be used as part of the non-Federal cost share unless it can be demonstrated that the origin of such funds is non-Federal. NFWF receives funding from a variety of sources, including Federal sources. Therefore, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that NFWF funds are non-Federal in nature, and not commingled with Federal funds, use of NFWF funds will not be accepted as part of the non-Federal cost share.

8. Q: How is the cost share by non-Federal partners determined?

A: The non-Federal cost share is determined as a percent of total project costs. The cost share can include cash, allowable costs incurred, and third party in-kind contributions. The cost share must be expended within the grant period. A proposal must include at least 25 percent non-Federal cost share per Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, if one State is involved. If two or more States or Territories are contributors to the project, the non-Federal cost share decreases to 10 percent. To determine the cost share necessary, first determine the total cost of the project then multiply the total cost by .25 or .10, this is the amount necessary for the cost share. For example, if the estimated project cost is \$1,000, then \$250 ($1000 * .25$) must be provided by our non-Federal partners, and the Federal share would be \$750. If two or more States are contributors, the non-Federal cost share drops to \$100 ($1000 * .10$), and the Federal share would be \$900. Proposals that have a non-Federal cost share greater than the required minimum will receive additional points in the ranking.

9. Q: What evidence must be provided by the States to qualify for a higher Federal participation rate? OR What evidence must be provided by the States to qualify for 90:10 cost share ratio?

A: As described in the Fish and Wildlife Service manual (521 FW 4.9)

States may increase the rate of Federal participation from 75 percent to 90 percent of total grant costs when two or more States cooperate to conserve an endangered or threatened species of common interest [50 CFR 81.8(a)].

Section 6 (d)(2)(ii), ESA, defines cooperation as "whenever 2 or more States having a common interest in one or more endangered or threatened species, . . . enter jointly into agreement with the Secretary." A cooperative action is one where two or more States work on a mutual problem. This may be an action outlined in a recovery plan for a species of multi-State concern, an action outlined in a memorandum of agreement between cooperating States, an action described in cooperative grants, or an action outlined in a recovery implementation program. The cooperating States may designate a lead State to coordinate with the Regional Director [43 CFR 12.50(b)(3), 50 CFR 81.6, 50 CFR 81.8(a), 50 CFR 81.9]. To seek an increased rate of participation for a cooperative project within a grant, cooperating States **MUST** (emphasis added) provide the following documentation to the Regional Director with the Grant Proposal:

Documentation of the cooperative action entered into by the cooperating States, which may be in any form (e.g., memorandum, letter of agreement, recovery plan, implementation program) that meets the needs of the cooperating States, provided it contains the responsibilities and work to be carried out by **EACH** (emphasis added) of the cooperating States. Examples follow:

(1) Either (a) one State submits an Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and a letter of agreement from another State sharing cooperative efforts, or (b) each State identifies the joint recovery action from the recovery plan in existing Applications for Federal Assistance (SF 424).

(2) Each cooperating State submits a proposal for the joint project and separate Applications for Federal Assistance (SF 424).

(3) When one or more States are participating in a recovery implementation program, one or more may submit separate Application(s) for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and certification that they are participating in the recovery implementation program, such as "The Colorado River Recovery Implementation Program."

Each cooperating State is responsible for submitting performance and financial reports related to the joint project, when they are actively participating in Federal reimbursement funding. Incomplete work by any one of the cooperating States may result in a recovery of Federal funds from all States, if it is determined that the joint cooperative objective will not be accomplished [43 CFR 12.80].

We have limited funds available for these programs, and each project we fund at the increased Federal cost share rate reduces our ability to support other projects, in other States and Territories; we believe it is most appropriate for States to follow example one or two above to demonstrate a level of support for each project we fund at the higher rate. This will not change the underlying requirements that qualify a proposal for this higher Federal cost share, and we expect that projects that have qualified for this cost share level in the past will be able to provide this information, and so will continue to qualify for the higher rate in the future.

10. Q: For Insular Areas (including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands) that are exempt from grant matching requirements up to \$200,000 under all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Programs (based on a May 9, 2003, Director's Memorandum), how will the ranking factors for additional cost sharing be addressed?

A: With regard to the ranking factors that provide additional points for additional cost sharing, proposals received from the Insular Areas listed above shall receive additional points for cost sharing in proportion to the additional points awarded to State proposals (i.e., 2 additional points for each additional 5% of cost share provided above the required minimum of 0% (up to \$200,000) up to the maximum number of points for this ranking factor).

11. Q: How many years can a project proposal be submitted for? OR What is the grant agreement period?

A: The Service has determined that the grant agreement period shall be for up to three (3) years (i.e., three years or less). Therefore, any work proposed in a project proposal must be completed within a three-year time frame. This time frame begins with a signed award document (i.e., obligation of funds) and ends with grant closeout. All work must be completed within this time. We highly recommend that project proposals are structured in such a way that annual costs and related accomplishments are clearly identifiable. In this way, partial funding may be awarded based on the reported annual expenditures and anticipated accomplishments stated in the proposal, should this prove necessary. Please keep in mind that submitting a project in one fiscal year does not preclude submitting the same or similar proposal in subsequent years for additional funding. A performance report is due annually within 90 days of the anniversary of the start date of the grant and a final report is due 90 days after the grant expiration.

12. Q: Can management costs be used as part of the State cost share for these grant projects?

A: Yes. Provided that funds sufficient to cover the management costs for a specified time period are secured at the time the land or easement is purchased **AND** provided that the proportion of Federal funding provided for management does not exceed the proportion of Federal funding provided for the land or easement purchase. In other words, the

amount of funding for management costs to be included as part of the grant may not exceed the purchase price for the land or easement.

For example, if a parcel of land to be purchased cost \$100,000 and a State or Territory were to meet the minimum eligibility criteria of a 75:25 - Federal / non-Federal match, then the maximum amount the Federal government would pay toward the purchase of the land would be \$75,000. If it is determined and documented that management of this property is going to cost an additional \$150,000, then the total project cost for the land acquisition and management would be \$250,000. Following the minimum eligibility criteria of 75:25 this would yield a split of \$187,500 Federal and \$62,500 non-Federal funding. However, because in this example the management costs exceeded the land purchase price, the Federal government would pay 75 percent of the land purchase price (\$75,000) and 75 percent of the management costs (\$112,500). This would be an unallowable scenario because the Federal portion of the grant provided for management (\$112,500) would exceed the Federal portion of the grant provided for land acquisition (\$75,000).

In order to use the management funding as part of the match, the State or Territory **MUST** document what activities would occur on the property and how much those activities would cost annually. Please note that management of lands acquired through these programs must be managed in perpetuity for the purposes in which the grant was awarded.

13. Q: Can activities such as habitat and species surveys be used as the State match for these grant projects?

A: Yes. Initial management costs including habitat and species surveys may be used as the State match provided that the costs are accrued and the work is completed within the grant agreement period (3 years). These initial management costs must be incurred for work carried out on the land acquired with the grant, or in the case of HCP planning grants, within the planning area associated with the grant. In addition, such work and the associated costs must be considered "allowable costs" per OMB guidelines, which can be obtained through our Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Office in each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region (<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>).

14. Q: Will States and Territories be able to claim reimbursement for administrative costs (overhead), especially for those funds that will be forwarded to local or private conservation efforts, and how will appropriate overhead rates be determined?

A: Yes. These costs can be included as long as they are included in the proposal and follow the OMB guidelines for administrative costs, which can be obtained through our Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Office in each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region (<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>). Please note that full-time equivalents (FTE) costs by States, Territories, counties, and

other entities must be tied to a specific project and should be included in these proposals sparingly. Likewise, third party administrative costs should be kept to a minimum and used sparingly.

15. Q: Given that listed plants are usually not protected on private lands, will plants be eligible for consideration?

A: Yes. We encourage the recovery of plants on private lands, especially for plants that are unique within their area or region, last known populations, or for other unique considerations. For HCPs, we do list plants on section 10(a) permits as covered species.

16. Q: Are Tribes eligible to receive funding directly through these grant programs?

A: No. By law, these grant programs apply only to State and Territorial agencies that have current Cooperative Agreements with the Service. However, States may submit proposals involving Tribes, i.e., Tribes may receive funding by working cooperatively with the State. Other funding opportunities for tribal wildlife conservation have been available since FY 2002. We encourage Tribes to contact the Native American Liaison in each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region to find out more about these opportunities. <http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/contact.html>

17. Q: Can a State submit a proposal for reimbursement of previously purchased land?

A: No. It is the Service's policy that grants be funded prospectively. Therefore, we will not accept proposals submitted for reimbursement of previously purchased land. Costs for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands incurred prior to approval of the grant award document by an authorized Service official are not allowable. The State is considered to have incurred the costs for land on the date the State becomes legally obligated for the purchase. Examples of when an acquisition cost is incurred are when a contract to purchase is executed or when an option is exercised. Prior approval by the Regional Director is evidenced by an approved Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and the obligation of Federal funds through an approved grant award document.

18. Q: Can National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed species be included in proposals?

A: Yes and No. Project proposals may be submitted for species with which the Service shares joint jurisdiction with NMFS when that proposal would benefit the jointly listed species while it is within the jurisdiction of the Service (e.g., a proposal for beach acquisition that would benefit a jointly listed sea turtle species would be acceptable). Proposals for those species solely under NMFS jurisdiction, or that benefit a shared jurisdiction species only while it is within the jurisdiction of NMFS, will not be

considered. This is not to say that a proposal should not point out additional benefits to NMFS listed species when discussing other merits of the proposal, only that these benefits will not contribute to any of the ranking factors.

19. Q: Must a State or Territory have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number to apply for these grants?

A: Yes. On June 27, 2003, OMB published a *Federal Register* notice (68 FR 38402) that announced final policy issuance on the use of a universal identifier by grant applicants. The policy requires applicants applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003 to acquire a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number.

It is the responsibility of the organization seeking Federal funds to obtain a DUNS number, as necessary. Grant and cooperative agreement applicants (excluding individuals) need to ensure they have a DUNS number. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

20. Q: Can additional project information, not contained in the written project narrative, be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consideration after the closing date for submission of proposals?

A: No. Any and ALL information that the applicant would like to have considered MUST be included in the written proposal. Project applicants may have discussions with Service personnel to clarify information that is contained in the written proposal. However, any new or additional information will not be considered. The proposal must be a stand-alone document.

21. Q: Can the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the State agency applying for the grant funding be considered a stakeholder or significant partner?

A: No. The Service and the State agency applying for grant funding are recognized as the key stakeholders or significant partners in the HCP planning or HCP land acquisition process. Therefore, neither the Service or any of the Service programs, nor the State or any of the subdivisions of the State agency should be included as stakeholders or significant partners. For the purpose of the HCP Planning Assistance and HCP Land Acquisition Grants, we are only considering those stakeholders or significant partners that are in addition to the Service and the State agency applying for grant funding.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

1. Q: Can the grant funds be used for planning acquisitions?

A: No. These funds are provided to States and Territories for the acquisition of habitat and are not intended for planning purposes. Also, these funds shall not be used to fund land acquisitions associated with permitted HCPs.

2. Q: Will perpetual conservation easements satisfy the criterion for a “commitment to funding for and implementation of management of the habitat in perpetuity”?

A: Yes, provided that the easement is established in perpetuity for the purposes of the grant and that the easement provides for the management of the habitat in perpetuity. There are additional requirements for the acquisition of conservation easements such as a draft easement, baseline condition report, and a management plan that must be approved (at least in draft) by the Service prior to drawing funds for the easement acquisition.

3. Q: Does land acquisition (the land to be acquired) have to be specifically mentioned in a recovery plan to qualify for this grant?

A: Yes and No. When a recovery plan for the species in question exists, the land acquisition must be consistent with the recovery plan. However, if a proposal is considered based on justification provided under one or more of the three exemptions stated in the eligibility criteria, then the land to be acquired does not have to be addressed in a recovery plan.

4. Q: Must a species be downlisted or delisted to obtain maximum points in ranking factor one?

A: No. While downlisting and delisting are desirable endpoints, maximum points will be awarded for acquisition(s) deemed necessary to avoid extinction within the next five years, or acquisition(s) that will assist the taxon achieve its recovery criteria within the next five years.

5. Q: Is the eligibility criterion that “habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for the purposes of recovery” appropriate, particularly if the species in question is either delisted due to recovery or goes extinct?

A: Yes. If the species is delisted due to recovery, then the habitat acquired as part of the recovery process should be maintained to ensure that habitat loss does not contribute to species decline in the future. The degree of habitat protection is a primary consideration in delisting determinations. Furthermore, land set aside for the recovery of one species often provides benefit to other listed species or species of concern. For that reason, setting aside the property in perpetuity may provide numerous benefits to species other than the “target” species. There are also instances where a species is presumed to be extinct, only to be “found” later in time. Therefore, setting the property aside in

perpetuity is prudent. However, should the “target” species become extinct and the habitat provide no significant benefit to other species, then the Service could revisit this on a case by case basis. Disposition instructions must be obtained from the Service in accordance with 43 CFR 12.71.

6. Q: Can a proposal for acquisition of a particular parcel of land be submitted for consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program?

A: No. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant programs in the same fiscal year.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

1. Q: Must an HCP be completed within a year to qualify for this grant?

A: No. As stated in the eligibility criteria, the proposal must involve discrete activities that can be accomplished within the grant agreement period and each activity must have an identified starting point and end point. Examples of discrete activities include developing public outreach brochures, gathering baseline data for an HCP, finalizing the HCP documents. Furthermore, the proposal should identify work elements that will be completed annually during the grant agreement period. Identifying elements that will be completed annually will facilitate our ability to provide partial funding to a proposal should that become necessary. However, an HCP does not need to be completed in its entirety within one year to qualify for this grant.

2. Q: Must ALL discrete activities identified in the proposal, for which funding is sought, be completed in one year to receive an additional point in the time to completion criteria?

A: YES ALL discrete activities identified in the proposal, for which funding is sought, must be completed in one year to receive points in this category. It is NOT sufficient for one or more discrete activities to be completed in one year with other identified discrete activities being completed in subsequent years, if funding for those additional activities is being sought through this proposal.

For proposals involving ongoing projects, a State may not claim these points if a previously funded phase of the project claimed the points and failed to complete ALL of the activities associated with that grant within the one year period. For example, if a proposal received these points in FY 2015 and failed to complete the associated tasks by December 2016, a State cannot claim these four points for the same planning effort in FY 2017.

3. Q: When does the one year time frame begin and end?

A: One Year, for the purposes of this grant program, is defined as the close of the calendar year subsequent to the calendar year in which funding was appropriated. For example, for funding appropriated in fiscal year 2017, ALL discrete activities for which funding is sought must be completed by December 31, 2018 in order to receive the additional point in ranking criteria number eight.

HCP Land Acquisition Grants

1. Q: Why is the HCP Land Acquisition Program targeted toward larger, multiple species HCPs?

A: The underlying spirit of the HCP program is to encourage state and local governments and private landowners to undertake regional and multiple species planning efforts. These large-scale, regional HCPs can significantly reduce the burden of the ESA on small landowners by providing efficient mechanisms for compliance, distributing the economic and logistical impacts of endangered species conservation among the community, and bringing a broad range of landowner activities under the HCPs' legal protections.

2. Q: Can a proposal for acquisition of a particular parcel of land be submitted for consideration in both the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program?

A: No. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the HCP Land Acquisition and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant programs in the same fiscal year.

Policy set forth in the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual (521 FW 4) guides the administration of the CESC grant programs (<http://www.fws.gov/policy/521fw4.html>).



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants

(Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act)

Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on privately owned lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and Tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands. States play a key role in catalyzing these efforts.

A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. One of the tools, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (section 6 of the ESA), provides grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species.

The program provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25% of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into, a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

The FWS awarded approximately \$56.3 million in Federal funding in FY 2016 under four grant programs that are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.



An FY 2016 grant to the State of Hawaii will help permanently protect 969 acres to support the recovery of numerous endangered Hawaiian birds, as well as minimize sedimentation of the near shore ecosystem and the Nation's largest fringing coral reef. Photo credit: USFWS

Conservation Grants (\$11.5 M) provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and at-risk species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$5.6 M) provide funds to States and Territories to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) through support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities.

HCP Land Acquisition Grants (\$22 M) provide funding to States and Territories to acquire land associated with approved HCPs. Grants do not fund the mitigation required of an HCP permittee; instead, they support land acquisition by the State or local governments that complement mitigation.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (\$17.2 M) provide funds to States and Territories for the acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of draft and approved recovery plans. Acquisition of habitat to secure long-term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.



An FY 2016 grant will enable the State of North Carolina to acquire and permanently protect up to 812 acres of longleaf pine habitat in Pender County used by the federally listed endangered red cockaded woodpecker. Photo credit: Eric Spadgenske

Contact Us

For more information on how to apply for Federal grants to assist States, Territories, and landowners in conserving species on non-Federal lands, please contact the FWS Regional office from the list below with responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur.

Additional information is also available at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>. You may also access www.grants.gov and search the site using the program title Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund or by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 15.615. This information is posted in accordance with OMB Control Number 1018-0109.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Branch of Recovery and State Grants
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-358-2171

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
September 2016

Regional Office Boundaries

Region One — Pacific

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastside Federal Complex
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
Program Contact: David Leonard,
503/231-2372 OR
Colleen Henson, 503/231-6283

Region Two — Southwest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue SW., Room 6078
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Program Contact: Stacey Stanford,
505/248-6665

Region Three — Great Lakes – Big Rivers

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
5600 American Blvd. West
Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458
Program Contact: Tom Magnuson,
612/713-5292

Region Four — Southeast

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30345
Program Contact: Kelly Bibb,
404/679-7132 OR
David Dell, 404/679-7313

Region Five — Northeast

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
Program Contact: Sadie Stevens,
413/253-8677

Region Six — Mountain-Prairie

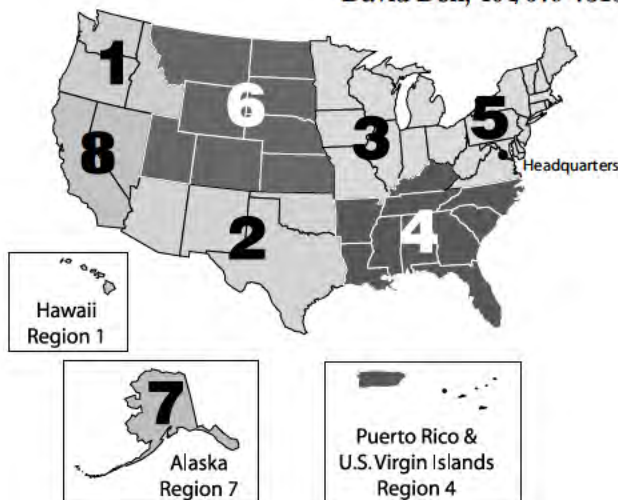
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd., Suite 645
Lakewood, CO 80228
Program Contact: Amelia Orton-Palmer,
303/236-4211

Region Seven — Alaska

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
907/786-3559
Program Contact: Drew Crane,
907/786-3559

Region Eight — Pacific Southwest

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Program Contact: Karen (Kitti) Jensen,
916/414-6557, OR Dan Cox,
916/414-6539



To: 'Robbins, Tasha'[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Conway, Laura (Lori)
Sent: 2018-01-03T22:06:23-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee
Received: 2018-01-03T22:06:38-05:00

Hi Tasha,
Everyone is traveling for the meeting, so we won't be able to get a one-pager to you before the meeting tomorrow AM, but below is Raya's original request. Does this help?

I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 2:52 PM
To: Conway, Laura (Lori)
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Laura,

Can you send me a 1 pager/background information regarding the meeting tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:48 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Thanks Laura, you too.

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 2:46 PM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:
Thank you! Have a great night and stay warm.

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Laura,

Update to participants list.

Jerome Ford will be here in person and Paul Souza will call in. Robyn nor Theresa will participate.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 3:43 PM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi Lori and Raya,

The below will participate in the call by phone with Mr. Larrabee.

Jerome Ford from our Migratory Bird Program
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Theresa Rabot, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Hope you had a great New Year! Just wanted to follow up to see if you know the attendees from your side for the meeting on Thursday, Jan 4th.

Many thanks!

Lori Conway

Lori Conway | WilmerHale
Assistant to Andy Spielman,
Kayla Byers and Sarah Judkins
1225 Seventeenth St.
Suite 2600
Denver, CO 80202 USA
+1 720 274 3136 (t)
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lori.conway@wilmerhale.com

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From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Robbins, Tasha <tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning, Tasha. I hope your week is off to a great start. I wanted to follow up with a list of attendees for the January 4 meeting at 10:00 a.m. Their name, title and email address are below. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Could you also please let us know who will be attending the meeting from Interior? If appropriate, we think it would be useful to have a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service in DC and the Pacific Region (by phone).

Thank you again for all your assistance.
Best,
Raya

Charles (Charlie) Sieving, Executive Vice President & General Counsel NextEra Energy, Inc
Charles.Sieving@NextEraEnergy.com

Mitch Ross, Vice President & General Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Mitch.Ross@nexteraenergy.com

Robert Sendler, Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel - NextEra Energy Resources
Robert.B.Sendler@nexteraenergy.com

David Cleary, Associate General Counsel, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
David.Cleary@nexteraenergy.com

Mike Sole, Vice President, Environmental Services at NextEra Energy, Inc
Michael.Sole@nexteraenergy.com

Andy Spielman, Wilmerhale
Andy.spielman@wilmerhale.com

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Wonderful, we are confirmed.

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Thank you very much, Tasha. January 4 at 10:00 am works for the group. We will follow up with a list of participants shortly.

Best,
Raya

On Dec 12, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Robbins, Tasha <tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No problem Raya.

Monday, January 8th from 10am-10:30am, 1pm-1:30pm or 3pm-3:30pm
Tuesday, January 9th from 10am-10:30am, 11am-11:30am

If this doesn't work I'm happy to provide other options.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 10:09 AM, Treiser, Raya B.

<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Good morning! Thanks very much for getting back to me. I will propose those dates. Just in case, are there other dates the week of January 8 that might be a possibility?

Thank you again for all your help with this! Hope your morning is off to a great start.

Best,
Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_1_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:51 AM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Good morning Raya,

How about Thursday, January 4th from 10am-10:30am, 2pm-2:30pm or 3:30pm-4pm.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Treiser, Raya B.

<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Thank you for getting back to me. Early January would work well could you please let me know what dates and times would work best?

Thank you

Raya

From: Robbins, Tasha [mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:53 PM

To: Treiser, Raya B. <Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Hi Raya,

My apologies for the delay in responding to this. Unfortunately Jason's schedule is a little hectic right now. Can we look to schedule this in early January.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Treiser, Raya B.

<Raya.Treiser@wilmerhale.com> wrote:

Ms. Robbins,

I hope you are having a good week. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to follow up on my email from a few days ago to see if there are dates this month that would work for Mr. Larabee to meet with NextEra Energy executives. Feel free to call me if I can answer any questions, or if it would be easier to discuss by phone. My office number is 202-663-6002, cell 202-(b) (6) .

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best,

Raya

From: Treiser, Raya B.
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Conway, Laura (Lori) <Lori.Conway@wilmerhale.com>
Subject: Meeting with NextEra Energy and Assistant Secretary Larabee

Ms. Robbins,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request a meeting with NextEra Energy's executive team and Assistant Secretary Larabee (and other relevant officials within the Department, as appropriate) to discuss in more detail the concept of an eagle framework conservation agreement under the Bald and Golden Eagle Conservation Act. My colleague Andy Spielman and I briefly discussed this idea with Mr. Larabee a few weeks ago. Company executives could make themselves available in early December at Mr. Larabee's convenience for such a meeting. Please let me know if there are any dates and times that would work best.

Best,
Raya

Raya B. Treiser | WilmerHale
1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006 USA
+1 202 663 6002 (t)
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raya.treiser@wilmerhale.com

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--
Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

--

Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_1_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

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--

Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Thorson, Robyn[robyn_thorson@fws.gov]
Cc: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Theresa Rabot[theresa_rabot@fws.gov]; Gary Frazer[Gary_Frazer@fws.gov]
From: gregory_sheehan@fws.gov
Sent: 2018-01-04T10:26:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Mazama Pocket Gopher
Received: 2018-01-04T10:27:22-05:00

Thanks Robyn for the response on these questions. Please keep us apprised of the progress on the smaller HCP's that are being initiated by the cities and individual landowners and developers.
Greg

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 5:36 PM, Thorson, Robyn <robyn_thorson@fws.gov> wrote:

Here is information in response to your most recent questions about the Mazama pocket gopher and the Thurston County HCP:

Q: How many total acres of land in Thurston County does the Mazama Pocket Gopher need? Can any of the land already set aside for conservation of the gopher be used? If so, how much?

A: FWS is working with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to identify population objectives and the amount of prairie habitat acres necessary to maintain a sustainable population for each of the three listed sub-species of gophers found in Thurston County. We have regularly communicated the status of recovery efforts to Thurston County and other HCP applicants including the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia.

Lands currently set aside for pocket gopher conservation by other entities would not offset additional impacts. Measures taken to increase the value (to pocket gophers) of any already-set-aside lands may be considered for offsetting additional impacts ("additionality"), depending on qualifying circumstances.

Q: I've seen grants that allow the acquisition (or easements, etc) of land for conservation purpose for the States via section 6. Couldn't this method be available to allow Thurston County to acquire additional property for gopher habitat?

A: There are two section 6 grant programs that fund land acquisition: the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program. Through the HCP Land Acquisition Grant program, funds may be used to purchase lands above and beyond what an approved HCP sets aside as mitigation, in order to conserve larger landscapes, or reduce conflicts (such as providing a buffer around a mitigation area). The Recovery Land Acquisition Grant program funds land acquisition in support of approved recovery plan objectives.

These section 6 land acquisition grants are limited and competed for annually by all States. The President's FY18 budget requested \$0 for both of these section 6 land acquisition grant programs. The FY17 enacted levels were \$19.6M and \$11.2M, respectively.

Q: What is the status of the HCP?

No meaningful progress toward defining the Thurston County HCP scope and funding model has been made by the Thurston County in the past 12 months. This is in spite of numerous public meetings and briefings to explain issues and discuss options and make a decision; extensive and documented meetings and technical assistance to the County by FWS and Washington State; and substantial HCP planning grants awarded to the County.

The lack of progress was discussed in the phone call November 17 with you, Commissioner Edwards, WDFW Director Jim Unsworth, and FWS Eric Rickerson (field leader) and FWS Regional Office leaders. The Thurston County Commission met December 13 and again made no meaningful progress toward defining the HCP scope and funding model.

FWS is waiting for the County Commissioners to communicate the scope of activities and funding model they will include in their HCP application, so that the HCP may proceed and builders/homeowners can get their incidental take permits. The decision on scope of the HCP can only be made by the County Commissioners.

As a result of the delays, an increasing number of Thurston County property owners are approaching FWS to process their individual HCPs, and the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia (both within Thurston County) started later but have now caught up with Thurston County in their HCP planning/preparation.

It is disappointing that Thurston County has not moved forward on the HCP, in spite of substantial grant funding for this purpose along with a high level of technical assistance from FWS and the State of Washington. Although a county-wide HCP would be a more efficient means (less costly) for residential, commercial and public property owners to obtain Incidental Take authorization, because of inaction on the HCP at the December 13 Commission meeting it appears timely to redirect our priority support from the County and instead focus on the Port of Olympia, City of Tumwater, and individual homeowners eager for HCP/Incidental Take Permits, so that we can help development interests in Thurston County to proceed. We are assessing that situation.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 10:43 AM, Skipwith, Aurelia <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Robyn: I have additional questions from our call with Washington State Fish & Game and the Commissioners regarding the Mazama Pocket Gophers.

- How many total acres of land in Thurston County does the Mazama Pocket

Gopher need? Can any of the land already set aside for conservation of the gopher be used? If so, how much?

- What is the population target for recovery to be achieved?
- What's the status of the HCP?

Greg: I've seen grants that allow the acquisition (or easements, etc) of land for conservation purpose for the States via section 6. Couldn't this method be available to allow Thurston County to acquire additional property for gopher habitat?

Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

--

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240
Office 202 208 4545
Cell 202 676 7675

To: Steven Howke[steven_howke@ios.doi.gov]; Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Gina Shultz[GINA_SHULTZ@fws.gov]; Rauch, Paul[paul_rauch@fws.gov]; Don Morgan[Don_Morgan@fws.gov]
From: Frazer, Gary
Sent: 2018-01-04T10:58:40-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: November Grants
Received: 2018-01-04T10:59:29-05:00

Steven/Aurelia -- Responses to your questions regarding some of the ESA section 6 grants in the November tranche follow:

Line 18: cooperative endangered species fund project with California column on flexibility answered no letter already issued. Would like to know more about this process and why letter issued prior to DOI approval.

*This is a Traditional Conservation Grant entered into the spreadsheet by the Region. The FWS regional office works cooperatively with the State of California to develop a list of projects proposed for funding in a fiscal year. The state submits pre proposals for all of the projects they would like to be considered. A letter is sent from the Service ARD to the state containing a list of projects for which we invite the state to submit a full proposal. The region inadvertently characterized this as an "award letter." The region recognizes that no awards over \$100,000 can be made without Secretarial approval.

Line 22: Endangered species grants land acquisition in Florida How much land and who is the seller?

* This is an FY 2013 Recovery Land Acquisition grant that is seeking permission to obligate. 12 acres will be acquired. The landowners are Gail Wilson and Linda Borkoski as Co Trustees under the Robert J Cannon and the Ava L. Cannon Revocable Trusts.

Lines 25 27 Also ES grants notes say they are all resubmissions. Why? What was the issue with the first submission?

*These are all for Traditional Conservation grants entered by regions 2 and 4. Rachel Rosen in WSFR HQ asked the regions to add information into the spreadsheet. The regions did not resubmit the projects but rather provided more detailed information.

Please let us know if you have any more questions. GDF

*Gary Frazer
Assistant Director -- Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-4646*

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 4:37 PM, Rauch, Paul <paul_rauch@fws.gov> wrote:

Gary/Gina,
Steven Howke had some questions when he reviewed our November grants package. Could you look into to these and get back to him as soon as possible. Gary - I have placed a copy of the spreadsheet on your chair. Specifically;

Line 18: cooperative endangered species fund project with California - column on flexibility answered no- letter already issued. Would like to know more about this process and why letter issued prior to DOI approval.

Line 22: Endangered species grants- land acquisition in Florida - How much land and who is the seller?

Lines 25-27 - Also ES grants - notes say they are all resubmissions. Why? What was the issue with the first submission?

Please respond directly back to Steven and Aurellia with a cc to me so I can track also.

Thanks

Paul

To: Downey Magallanes[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Foster, Maureen[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Wendy Fink[wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov]; Greg Sheehan[greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov]; Jim Kurth[jim_kurth@fws.gov]; Stephen Guertin[stephen_guertin@fws.gov]; Kashyap Patel[kashyap_patel@fws.gov]; Zachariah Gambill[zachariah_gambill@fws.gov]
From: Morris, Charisa
Sent: 2018-01-04T11:13:06-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 90-day list timeframes
Received: 2018-01-04T11:13:57-05:00
[Projected Dates in OMB Quarterly Regulatory Reports 1.4.18.docx](#)

Hi Downey-

Please see the attached, which explains what drives each of the items on our 90-day list, as well as our expected timeline for the next quarterly report. Please let me know what other information you may need, and we can provide it.

Thanks!

Charisa

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 10:59 AM, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Downey-

I am on SL today. I'll send you anything our team knows about our 90-day list timeframes by email. Let me know if you need anything else!

Happy New Year,
Charisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2018, at 9:15 AM, downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov wrote:

Hi- please come prepared to discuss the 90-day list for this meeting. Interested in particular on the timeframes given. Thank you.

Chiefs of Staff Weekly Meeting

Weekly meeting with Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Downey Magallanes and Chief of Staff, Scott Hommel.

Chiefs of Staff:

- Amy Holley, Chief of Staff, PMB
- Maureen Foster, Chief of Staff, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Charisa Morris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Lisa Mendelson, Chief of Staff, NPS
- Kerry Rae, Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Water & Science
- James Hess, Chief of Staff, BOR
- Jill Moran, Acting Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Lands & Minerals Management
- Peter Mali, Acting Chief of Staff, BLM
- Emily Lindow, Chief of Staff, BOEM

- Elizabeth Appel, Acting Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
- Thomas Lillie, Chief of Staff, Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement

When Wed Jan 3, 2018 2:30pm – 3pm Eastern Time

Where Room 6151 and Dial-in: (b)(5) and code: (b)(5) ([map](#))

Video call (b)(5), (b)(6)

Who

- . downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov organizer
- . gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov creator
- . kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov
- . lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov
- . emily.lindow@boem.gov
- . elizabeth.appel@bia.gov
- . basil_ottley@ios.doi.gov
- . charisa_morris@fws.gov
- . pmali@blm.gov
- . jcmoran@blm.gov
- . amy_holley@ios.doi.gov
- . scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov
- . thomas.lillie@bsee.gov
- . gowens@osmre.gov
- . debrah.mcbride@bia.gov
- . hpayne@osmre.gov
- . michael_argo@ios.doi.gov
- . jhess@usbr.gov
- . jnowakowski@usgs.gov
- . maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov
- . jean_parrish@ios.doi.gov optional

--

Charisa_Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters,
please dial cell: 301-875-8937

Projected Dates in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Quarterly Regulatory Reports to OMB

I. Background

In accordance with Executive Order 12866, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) submits quarterly reports of rulemaking documents that are anticipated to be ready for review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during the upcoming 3-month period. OMB uses these reports to determine which rulemaking documents are “significant” as defined in the Executive Order and, therefore, will require OMB review. The prescribed format of the reports includes fields for, among other things, a description of the action, including any expected controversy that may result, and the date that the rule could be ready for submission to OMB.

II. How FWS establishes the dates in the report

The majority of dates in the “Ready for Review” column of the FWS quarterly regulatory reports are derived from the originating program’s internal processes. For discretionary rules, the programs determine their internal priorities and evaluate their upcoming workload and the resources expected to be available for rulemaking. Program officials then project a date whereby they anticipate staff can draft a rulemaking document, including any needed supplementary analyses, such as an economic analysis or environmental assessment, and have the document complete the departmental clearance process for approval for OMB submission.

Other dates in the “Ready for Review” column derive from statutory, court-ordered, or other externally driven deadlines. Examples below are from the FWS Q2 FY2018 report:

The rulemaking process for this rule is being driven by a **statute**:

- 1018 BC05, Civil Procedures; Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties

The rulemaking processes for these rules are being driven by our responsibility to regulate take of fish and wildlife and **open legal hunting seasons as required by statute**:

- 1018 BB40, Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2018 19 Season
- 1018 BB73, Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations for the 2018 19 Hunting Season
- 1018 BC70, Migratory Bird Subsistence in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska during the 2018 Season
- 1018 BA76, Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2017 2018 and 2018 2019 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
- 1018 BC06, Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2019 2020 and 2020 2021 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish

In addition, the Endangered Species Act requires the Secretary to publish a final rule for listing determinations and critical habitat designations within 1 year of publication of the

proposed rule, with certain limited exceptions. So our final listing and critical habitat designations are also driven by a statutory deadline.

The rulemaking processes for these documents are being driven by **settlement agreements**:

- 1018 BB34, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Determination for the Texas Hornshell
- 1018 BB64, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Determination for the San Fernando Valley Spineflower

The rulemaking process for this document is being driven by a **court order**:

- 1018 BC12, Depredation Orders for Double-Crested Cormorants; Removal of Regulations

Finally, some FWS rulemaking actions have **deadlines determined by Department officials**.

These two rulemaking actions are examples:

- 1018 BC87, Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Species; Revision of Regulations To Address Interagency Cooperation, and Prohibitions
- 1018 BC88, Endangered and Threatened Species of Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Regulations for Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat

III. The timeline for developing the Q3 FY2018 report

The FWS Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs (PPM) will send out a call to the FWS programs for input for the Q3 list in January. The deadline for submission to PPM will be January 19, 2018.

After receipt of program input, PPM will assemble a draft list, including updating the status of items that were on the Q2 list. This process will involve follow-up queries to the programs for additional information.

After PPM finishes the draft list, we will submit it through the FWS Director's Office, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and then to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES).

Our goal is to get the hardcopy package to OES by February 28, 2018.

To: Regulatory Contacts[regulatory_contacts@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Kerry Rae[kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Lisa Mendelson[lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov]; Emily Lindow[emily.lindow@boem.gov]; Morris, Charisa[charisa_morris@fws.gov]; Peter Mali[p mali@blm.gov]; Moran, Jill[jcmoran@blm.gov]; Thomas Lillie[thomas.lillie@bsee.gov]; Glenda Owens[gowens@osmre.gov]; Debrah McBride[debrah.mcbride@bia.gov]; James Hess[jhess@usbr.gov]; Nowakowski, Judy[jnowakowski@usgs.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]
From: Apgar, Megan
Sent: 2018-01-04T12:05:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 30-day Projections Report: Request for Updates by Noon Friday 1/5/2018
Received: 2018-01-04T12:06:08-05:00
[Federal Register 30 day projections for Wednesday, 01-03-2018-to Reg Contacts.xlsx](#)

Good Morning,

I have attached the January 3 version of the 30 day Projections report. Please send your bureau's or office's updates by noon, Friday, January 5. Your submission should include ALL Federal Register documents you reasonably expect to advance for OS clearance in the next 30 days, as well as documents pending OMB review. Please coordinate your submission with your Chief of Staff.

Please follow these instructions to facilitate preparation of a consistent report:

Formatting

- Do not change formatting (except to add or delete rows).
- Rename the file to include your bureau/office and the date when you submit to OES.

Dates

- Provide realistic dates for DOI clearance (e.g., 5 business days for OES, appropriate times for AS/Bureau clearance).
- For time sensitive documents, please include information in columns G and L. If there is a statutory or judicial deadline, specify the date.

Other Information

- If an action merits a Press Release, provide a detailed summary for each action reported, to include any key communication messages.
- Remove any documents that have been approved to go to the Federal Register or that have been delivered and are awaiting publication.
- Include any rules that have been approved to go to OMB for review or that are at OMB.
- For Current Status, please use: Pending Bureau clearance, Pending Assistant Secretary clearance, Pending Solicitor clearance, or Pending Office of the Secretary clearance. These standard terms will facilitate sorting in Excel.

Call if you have questions.

Thanks you for your continued work on this report,

Megan Apgar
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
office: (202) 208-4582

[illegible]

Internal Deliberat ve Do Not Distribute

[illegible]

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5 of 9

[illegible]

To: Watts, John (Feinstein)[John_Watts@feinstein.senate.gov]
Cc: Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Bradley Cavallo [REDACTED] (b)(6);
Durst, Garrett[Garrett.Durst@mail.house.gov]; Ewell, Austin[austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov]; Fullerton, David
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From: Nobriga, Matt
Sent: 2018-01-04T12:10:50-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Delta smelt science conference call
Received: 2018-01-04T12:11:07-05:00
[2013 Brown FutureSurvivalDeltaSmelt E&C.pdf](#)

Hi John,
This is the paper that just got mentioned.

Matt

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 11:51 AM, Watts, John (Feinstein) <John_Watts@feinstein.senate.gov> wrote:

Join by phone

Local: (202) 228-0808 (US)	English (United States)
Senate Internal: 80808 (US)	English (United States)
Toll Free: (855) 428-0808 (US)	English (United States)
Find a local number	

Conference ID: 562377

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Implications for Future Survival of Delta Smelt from Four Climate Change Scenarios for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, California

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R. Wayne Wagner · Tara Morgan-King · Noah Knowles ·
Frederick Feyrer · David H. Schoellhamer ·
Mark T. Stacey · Michael Dettinger

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Abstract Changes in the position of the low salinity zone, a habitat suitability index, turbidity, and water temperature modeled from four 100-year scenarios of climate change were evaluated for possible effects on delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*, which is endemic to the Sacramento–San Joaquin

Delta. The persistence of delta smelt in much of its current habitat into the next century appears uncertain. By mid-century, the position of the low salinity zone in the fall and the habitat suitability index converged on values only observed during the worst droughts of the baseline period (1969–2000). Projected higher water temperatures would render waters historically inhabited by delta smelt near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers largely uninhabitable. However, the scenarios of climate change are based on assumptions that require caution in the interpretation of the results. Projections like these provide managers with a useful tool for anticipating long-term challenges to managing fish populations and possibly adapting water management to ameliorate those challenges.

Keywords Delta smelt · *Hypomesus transpacificus* · San Francisco Estuary · Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta · Climate change · Delta · Estuary

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Introduction

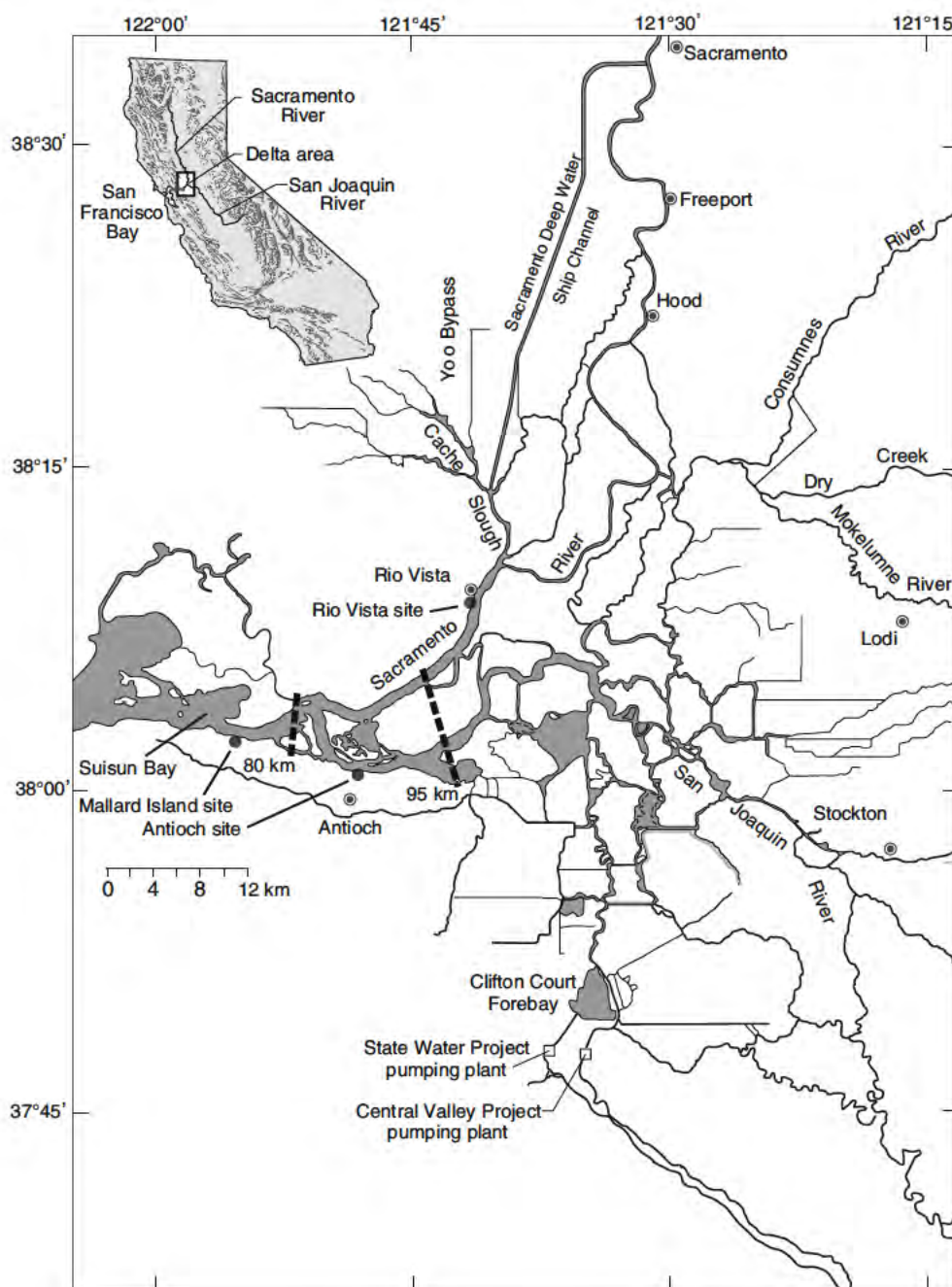
Assessments of climate change effects on aquatic resources are increasing in relevance and importance as methods for downscaling global scenarios to ecologically relevant scales improve. This sharper resolution for scenarios provides increased opportunities for understanding the effects of climate change on aquatic resources. For example, projections of the likely effects of climate change on fish populations are moving from basin-scale oceanic and regional freshwater assessments (e.g., Beamish 1995; Roessig et al. 2004; Chu et al. 2005; Perry et al. 2005) to projections for specific river systems (Yates et al. 2008; Wiley et al. 2010).

However, relatively few assessments have focused on specific estuarine systems and their aquatic resources, presumably because of the inherent challenges in projecting likely changes occurring across multiple tributary watersheds and the dynamic estuarine environment where inflowing fresh water mixes with the near-shore ocean (Wood et al. 2002; Peterson 2003; McClusky and Elliot 2004; Moyle et al. 2010; Cloern et al. 2011).

The San Francisco Estuary (hereafter, Estuary) (Fig. 1) is the largest estuary on the West Coast of North America and is arguably one of the best studied (e.g., Conomos 1979; Hollibaugh 1996; Feyrer et al. 2004). The native aquatic

organisms of the estuary and watershed have been affected by multiple interacting factors since European settlement, including habitat alteration, water diversion, flow regime alteration, and invasive species (Bennett and Moyle 1996; Brown and Moyle 2005; Sommer et al. 2007; Moyle et al. 2010). Presently, six native fishes that use or pass through the Estuary are listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal statutes. Water diverted from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (hereafter, Delta) at the southeastern margin of the Estuary (Fig. 1) supports a multibillion dollar agricultural economy and provides drinking water to more than 20 million Californians.

Fig. 1 Map of the Sacramento San Joaquin delta and Suisun Bay. Sites are indicated by black dots. The dashed lines indicate X2 values (distance of the salinity 2 isohaline from the Golden Gate) that bound all but a few of the X2 values expected under the climate change scenarios



The delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus* is endemic to the upper San Francisco Estuary, primarily the Delta and Suisun Bay (Fig. 1) and is one of the six species listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal statutes. Because of its limited range, the delta smelt may be the most vulnerable to climate change of the native fishes that use the Estuary. After years of gradual decline and a recent steep decline (Sommer et al. 2007; Thomson et al. 2010), there is a growing concern that the delta smelt is in danger of extinction. Like many estuarine species, thresholds of water temperature, salinity, and turbidity are important elements of the physical habitat utilized by delta smelt (Bennett 2005; Sommer et al. 2007; Feyrer et al. 2007, 2010). These factors are not only influenced by changes in climate, but water management practices as well. Current water management practices intended to benefit delta smelt and other listed species often involve limitations on quantity and timing of water exports and are thus inexorably linked to water resource policies and allocation throughout California.

The delta smelt is primarily an annual species with a small percentage living for 2 years (Bennett 2005). Maturing delta smelt move from Suisun Bay into the freshwater regions of the Delta during the winter, where they continue to develop. Water temperatures during spawning have not been measured in the wild, but larval survival in aquaculture and occurrence of larvae in the estuary suggests that the majority of successful spawning occurs within a window of 15–20 °C (Bennett 2005). After hatching, larval delta smelt gradually move seaward toward Suisun Bay (Dege and Brown 2004) as water temperatures in the Delta approach 20 °C. Juvenile delta smelt largely rear in the low salinity zone (about 1–6 salinity), which is generally located from Suisun Bay to the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (Fig. 1) depending on Delta outflow. However, recent sampling in the northern Delta suggests that some portion of the population may inhabit freshwater for the entire year, specifically the Sacramento River to Rio Vista and then northward to the region around the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel (Sommer et al. 2011). Based on hatchery studies, delta smelt growth seems to be optimal at about 20 °C with unlimited food (Bennett et al. 2008). Catches of delta smelt in the estuary decrease at temperatures above 20 °C (Bennett 2005; Feyrer et al. 2007; Nobriga et al. 2008) with delta smelt rarely captured at temperatures exceeding 25 °C. Recent studies have linked delta smelt distribution in the summer and fall with turbidity levels within the suitable ranges of salinity and temperature (Feyrer et al. 2007, 2010; Nobriga et al. 2008). Delta smelt are rarely captured in clear water (<12–18 NTU); larval delta smelt require turbidity for successful feeding in laboratory culture experiments (Baskerville-Bridges et al. 2004a, b).

In this paper, we assess possible effects of four scenarios of climate change for the present century on the Delta and

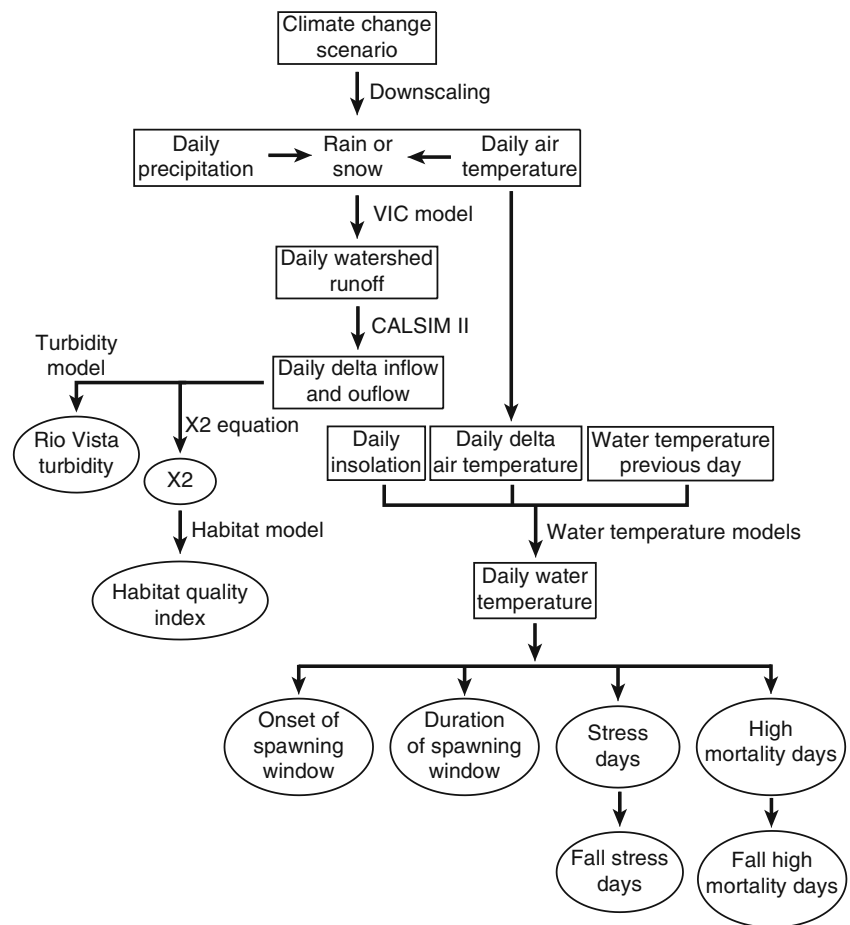
likelihood of persistence of delta smelt under these scenarios. Specifically, we use model projections of changes in water temperature, salinity, and turbidity to assess the possible effects of climate change on delta smelt. These results add to previous analyses by Cloern et al. (2011) that considered only two scenarios and only one metric of possible effects on delta smelt. Recent declines in delta smelt abundance almost certainly resulted from many interacting factors (Sommer et al. 2007; NRC 2012), including changes in physical habitat features and other factors we do not address in this paper (e.g., food availability, predation, and entrainment by water diversions; Sommer et al. 2007; NRC 2012). However, changes in the availability and distribution of suitable habitat define the arena within which complex ecological processes occur. We stress that these scenarios are possible futures rather than quantitative predictions. Furthermore, the scenarios assume that no major changes in infrastructure or water management practices will occur, which is unlikely over the long term as California grapples with its water supply issues (Lund et al. 2010).

Methods

General Modeling Approach

Here, we briefly outline our general modeling approach (Fig. 2). Details are presented in separate sections below. Our general approach is the same as that followed by Cloern et al. (2011). We selected two very different scenarios of climate change from those included in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (2007) and two intermediate scenarios (Table 1). The global climate model (GCM) projections of precipitation and air temperature were then downscaled to the regional level, specifically the San Francisco Estuary and watershed, using the same approach as Dettinger (2012). The VIC model (Cherkauer et al. 2003; Liang et al. 1994) was then used to project runoff in the major river systems of the watershed, all of which have major storage reservoirs. The CALSIM II water management model (Draper et al. 2004) was used to simulate water project operations, which partially determine discharge into the Delta and outflow from the Delta to San Francisco Bay. Outflow from the Delta toward San Francisco Bay determines the location of the low salinity zone with is indexed by X2, the distance from the Golden Gate (km) of the salinity 2 near-bottom isohaline (Jassby et al. 1995). X2 can be used to estimate the extent of habitat considered suitable for delta smelt with respect to salinity and turbidity based on a habitat suitability index created by Feyrer et al. (2010).

We developed a simple turbidity model for the Rio Vista location to evaluate the turbidity component of the habitat

Fig. 2 Flow chart of modeling strategy. See text for details

suitability model, which assumes no change in the relationship of turbidity to flow. We calculated future turbidity under two alternative assumptions. First, we assume only changes in flow based on the CALSIM II output. Second, we also assume decreasing turbidity based on the calculation of Cloern et al. (2011) of a 1.6 % annual decrease based on data collected from 1975 to 2008. Turbidity modeling was based on statistical models of the relationship between river inflow and turbidity measured near Rio Vista (Fig. 1).

Statistical models of daily water temperature were developed for monitoring stations in the Delta with sufficient

length of record (Wagner et al. 2011). These models are based on air temperature, water temperature the previous day, and daily insolation. Based on the available delta smelt life history information and outputs from the available models, we selected a variety of metrics as indicators of delta smelt habitat quality (Table 2).

Similar to Cloern et al. (2011), there are multiple sources of uncertainty in our study; however, the complexity of the San Francisco estuary and watershed and the detailed environmental variables evaluated make a full sensitivity analysis of the entire suite of models used in this study

Table 1 Climate change scenarios used to assess the potential effects of climate change on delta smelt in the upper San Francisco Estuary

Scenario	Definition	Descriptive outcome
PCM B1	Parallel Climate Model assuming a future where greenhouse gas emissions level off by the end of the century	A modestly warmer ($\sim +1.5$ °C end of century) future with no change in precipitation
PCM A2	Parallel Climate Model assuming a future where greenhouse gas emissions continually increase through the century	A moderately warmer ($\sim +2.5$ °C) future with little change in precipitation
GFDL B1	Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory CM2.1 model assuming a future where greenhouse gas emissions level off by the end of the century	A moderately warmer ($\sim +2.7$ °C) future with moderate declines (10 %) in precipitation
GFDL A2	Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory CM2.1 model assuming a future where greenhouse gas emissions continually increase through the century	A much warmer ($\sim +4.5$ °C) and drier (20 %) future

The descriptive outcome is based on the downscaled data for the San Francisco Estuary watershed described in the text

Table 2 Metrics used to assess the potential effects of climate change on delta smelt in the upper San Francisco Estuary (see the text for details)

Metric	Definition	Significance
Fall X2	X2 is the distance of the salinity 2 isohaline from the Golden Gate, measured near bottom. Fall X2 is the mean of the monthly values from September to December	Indicator of the location of the low salinity zone favored by juvenile delta smelt
Habitat suitability index	The index is derived from a model that considers delta smelt occurrence relative to salinity and turbidity and the areal extent of suitable habitat	Indicator of the extent of physical habitat available for delta smelt to utilize
Number of days in spawning window	Number of days during the period beginning with 5 consecutive days of water temperature >15 °C and ending with 5 consecutive days of water temperature >20 °C	Indicator of the length of the spawning season
Mean date of the spawning window	The Julian date of the midpoint of the spawning window as previously defined	Indicator of the timing of the spawning season
Stress days	Cumulative number of days of daily average water temperature >20 °C	Indicator of sublethal physiological stress
High mortality days	Cumulative number of days of daily average water temperature >25 °C	Indicator of increased mortality due to acute temperature stress
Stress days in Fall	Number of stress days from 1 September to 14 December. This time period coincides with the time period for Fall X2 and the Habitat Index	Indicator of sublethal physiological stress during the Fall
High mortality days in Fall	Number of high mortality days from 1 September to 14 December. This time period coincides with the time period for Fall X2 and the Habitat Index	Indicator of increased mortality due to acute temperature stress during the Fall
Percentage of time turbidity <18 NTU	The percentage of the year when the regression model predicts turbidity <18 NTU based on average daily flow	Indicator of unfavorable turbidity for delta smelt

prohibitively difficult. One of the largest sources of uncertainty is represented in the spread of projected temperature and precipitation changes among the model outputs used in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC 2007). Our general approach was to select scenarios that bracketed the likely range of future conditions, specifically with regard to temperature and precipitation changes. A general tendency of GCM projections over northern California is toward little precipitation change from models with smaller warming trends and less precipitation from models with greater warming (Dettinger 2005; Brekke et al. 2008). By selecting two models from near the two extremes of this tendency and two different emission scenarios (Table 1), we cover a wide range of possible conditions, to reflect the uncertainties in GCMs and emissions of greenhouse gases. By then evaluating responses of selected environmental variables and their possible effects on delta smelt, we capture a wide range of possible effects on the species.

We limit our assessments to three locations that bracket the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (Fig. 1). This geographic region can comprise a large portion of suitable delta smelt habitat when X2 is located in the Antioch region and landward. Delta smelt also reside in freshwater in the Cache Slough region and deepwater ship channel north of Rio Vista (Sommer et al. 2011). Tidal exchange of water from this area with Rio Vista is substantial because the deepwater ship channel is much deeper than the Sacramento River channel upstream of their confluence. Thus, water temperature and turbidity conditions at Rio

Vista can be considered indicative of conditions in this northern area. Water clarity and water temperature conditions are already unfavorable for delta smelt in the central and southern Delta during the summer (Nobriga et al. 2008; Sommer et al. 2011).

Baseline Conditions

Understanding the effects of climate change requires establishment of a baseline for evaluation of changes. We established a baseline condition for each of our environmental metrics. The baseline was then compared to 90 years of data from each scenario (2010–2099). Baseline conditions for mean X2 (September–December) were hindcast for the period 1968–2000 using the same modeling setup used to produce the future scenario values of X2 (described below). While actual data for X2 are available for this period (Dayflow data base, <http://www.water.ca.gov/dayflow/>), we wanted to produce a baseline for X2 that reflected both historical hydro-meteorological variability and the same modeling assumptions present in our future X2 scenarios. Therefore, we used historical hydrological simulations of reservoir inflows to drive the CALSIM II model, which was configured exactly as in the 2010–2099 runs except that freshwater demands in the model correspond to a 2000 level of development (as opposed to a 2020 level of development in the future scenarios). Thus, any differences between baseline and scenario values can be attributed to climate change and to the change between the year 2000 level of

development and the projected 2020 level of development rather than to differences from observations caused by model assumptions. A consequence of this, however, is that our baseline data calculated using this model “hindcast” approach, while more useful in allowing an “apples-to-apples” comparison with future scenarios, do not faithfully reproduce the observed historical variability, particularly with regard to any trends that may have resulted from changes in management strategies and capabilities over the historical baseline period. However, the use of historical meteorology permits at least some reasonable comparisons with observed historical behavior, as opposed to “historical” GCM runs, which correspond to actual historical behavior only in terms of greenhouse gas forcings and not year-to-year variability.

The resulting model-based estimates of historical Delta outflow were used to calculate baseline X2 as detailed below. Mean fall (September–December) X2 was then determined and used to calculate the habitat suitability index for the baseline period. Baseline water temperatures were also obtained by hindcasting for the same reasons discussed above (to generate a baseline based on the same models used to produce future scenarios, allowing more meaningful comparisons) and because water temperature has not been monitored at all sites over the entire baseline period. Baselines for the water temperature metrics (1969–2008) were calculated from historical air temperature values. Similar to X2, hindcasts of turbidity were conducted using the CALSIM II calculated daily flows for 1968–2000 to drive the turbidity model detailed below.

Climate Change Scenarios

Projected scenarios of daily air temperatures and flow were derived from simulations of twenty-first century climate by two GCMs under each of two future global greenhouse-gas emissions scenarios (Table 1). The GCMs used were the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) CM2.1 coupled ocean–atmosphere GCM (Delworth et al. 2006) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research Parallel Climate Model (PCM) coupled ocean–atmosphere GCM (Washington et al. 2000). The GFDL model is considered strongly sensitive to greenhouse-gas emissions among those considered by the IPCC (2007) and produces larger changes in climate compared to other models with the same change in greenhouse-gas emissions. The PCM model is considered to have low sensitivity to greenhouse-gas emissions, producing smaller changes in climate than other models for the same change in greenhouse-gas emissions.

We considered two scenarios of greenhouse-gas emissions available from the IPCC (Nakicenovic et al. 2000). The A2 scenario assumes a very heterogeneous world economy with high population growth and resulting greenhouse-gas emissions that accelerate through the remainder of the

century. We selected this scenario because it represented a reasonable estimation of a worst case scenario. Subsequently, Raupauch et al. (2007) showed that during the past decade, emissions have actually exceeded those represented by A2. Thus, our results may underestimate the most extreme possible effects on delta smelt. The B1 scenario assumes a more resource efficient future with lower population growth resulting in emissions leveling off by the end of the century.

Climate data from simulations by these two models, under A2 (continually increasing) and B1 (leveling by mid-century) greenhouse-gas emissions scenarios, were obtained from the Program for Climate Diagnosis and Intercomparison at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Meehl et al. 2007). As explained earlier, these scenarios were chosen to largely bracket the range of recent climate-change projections for California, with the GFDL A2 scenario being near the warmer and drier end of current projections and the PCM B1 scenario being near the less-warm and less-dry end of projections (Cayan et al. 2009) (Table 1). These climate change scenarios are included in several recent assessments of climate change for California (Cayan et al. 2008, 2009), which should allow for integration of our results with climate change planning for the state.

Downscaling

The GCM simulations were made on global grids with spatial resolutions of about 2–3° latitude and longitude (about 250 km at the latitude of the Delta). The GCM outputs were “downscaled” onto a one-eighth-degree grid over the conterminous US by the method of Constructed Analogues (Hidalgo et al. 2008; Maurer et al. 2010; data available at <http://tenaya.ucsd.edu/wawona-m/downscaled/>) under the direction of one of the authors (MDD). The data for our study area was then extracted from this larger coverage. Downscaling refers to the transformation of simulated climate variables from the spatial scale of GCMs to estimates of climate at smaller spatial scales. Briefly, Constructed Analogues is a statistical approach to downscaling in which the coarse gridded depiction of a day’s climate (weather) from a GCM is matched to a set of days, in the same season of the year, with closely matching historical, observed climate patterns (weather maps) at the same spatial scale. The best linear combination of the historical weather maps that fit the model pattern is then determined by linear regression. The resulting regressions are then used to interpolate climate variables at finer spatial scales between the GCM grid points. The Constructed Analogues approach yields particularly realistic temperature and precipitation relations across areas with sharp geographic gradients (Cayan et al. 2009) like the near-coastal areas of California. The method was applied to climate simulations spanning the period from 1950 to 2100, to obtain daily,

gridded temperature and precipitation patterns of twenty-first century climate over California. Greater detail on the application of the method to California is available in Dettinger (2012). Plots of air temperature and precipitation for the GFDL A2 and PCM B1 scenarios are available in Cloern et al. (2011).

VIC Model

Downscaled precipitation and air temperature from the climate change scenarios were used to drive the VIC watershed model (Cherkauer et al. 2003; Liang et al. 1994). This model has been applied in several prior studies of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds (Barnett et al. 2008; Cayan et al. 2008; Maurer et al. 2010). We use the same model configuration and parameters used in those studies. The VIC model is a surface water energy balance model intended for large-scale applications. It considers land cover within each gridded cell of the model. Within each land cover vegetation class, the model considers spatial variability of infiltration and simulates runoff generation, using a variable infiltration curve (Cherkauer et al. 2003). We used the model to calculate unimpaired runoff for each of the major headwater basins of the Delta's watershed at inflows to the major reservoirs. Cloern et al. (2011) simulated unimpaired runoff using two separate models—VIC and the independently derived Bay-Delta Watershed Model (Knowles 2000; Knowles and Cayan 2004). The latter is a distributed soil-moisture accounting model of unimpaired hydrology for the watershed. Results from the two models are very similar, indicating that our results are robust with respect to choice of hydrologic model. Plots of projected unimpaired runoff for GFDL A2 and PCM B1 scenarios are available in Cloern et al. (2011).

CALSIM II

Because all of the major headwater basins in the Sacramento–San Joaquin watershed include dams, storage reservoirs, and diversions, water management activities must be considered when estimating inflow to the estuary from runoff in the watersheds. We did this using unimpaired runoff at major reservoir inflow points from the VIC model to drive the CALSIM II model. The CALSIM II model is used to help plan operations of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project, given existing water allocations, regulatory commitments, and annual runoff conditions (Draper et al. 2004). The model is also used to assess future water demand given scenarios of future development.

CALSIM II is a management optimization model (Draper et al. 2004). Given reservoir inflows, a set of water management actions (e.g., reservoir releases) is derived that optimally satisfies operational goals (e.g., water diversions) and

constraints (e.g., water quality requirements). The results are estimates of managed freshwater flows at established points throughout the watershed. CALSIM II has been applied to a number of other climate-change studies in California (Brekke et al. 2004; Dracup et al. 2005; Vicuna et al. 2007; Anderson et al. 2008; Brekke et al. 2009; Cloern et al. 2011).

CALSIM II has several shortcomings that must be considered when interpreting results. When surface water supplies are insufficient to meet demands, the model implements additional groundwater withdrawals. When the mismatch is great enough, groundwater withdrawals can exceed sustainable levels. In reality, such high withdrawals could eventually lead to depletion of aquifers, and to avoid this, reductions in surface-water deliveries would be likely, and the ability to repel salinity intrusion could be affected.

CALSIM II also works at a monthly time step, producing monthly averaged streamflow. As described in Cloern et al. (2011), monthly flows were disaggregated to daily flows by selecting from daily flow records at key locations where water is released below dams. For each future month, an optimally matched historical month was selected based on comparisons of historical and projected inflows to the reservoir. Matches were based on a combined root-mean-square error and correlation coefficient metric. The daily flows at the downstream location for the historical month were then scaled to match the projected CALSIM II monthly flow. This approximation of daily flow was designed mainly to represent rainy-season flow peaks and is largely superfluous during the months of September–December examined in this study for fall X2 and the habitat suitability index—in a separate analysis, there was very little difference between monthly mean values of X2 (see below) calculated using daily flow and those calculated directly using interpolated monthly averaged flows.

Many aspects of California's freshwater management system are in flux and changing economic conditions will likely have major effects on projected demand (Lund et al. 2010). Given these uncertainties and the inability to run simulations for a wide range of water management and future demand scenarios, we based our projections of a 100-year period (2000–2100) on projected water demand for the year 2020 and the operational criteria as of 2006, when we obtained the CALSIM II model from the California Department of Water Resources. The water demand for 2020 level of development had already been determined as part of a California Department of Water Resources planning study. The implications of these modeling limitations are addressed in "Discussion."

The output of the CALSIM II model, which includes monthly flow for all inputs to and outputs from the Delta, were disaggregated to daily values as described above. It is important to note that while the CALSIM II model's

assumption of present-day management priorities in the future is a limitation, the model treats X2 control as one of its top priorities. This means that the model may take unrealistic measures (such as unsustainable levels of groundwater extraction) to repel salinity, with the result that salinity intrusion is, if anything, underestimated in the present approach. This is even more the case because sea level rise effects are not included in this analysis (see below).

X2 and Habitat Index

The location of the low salinity zone, as indexed by X2, in the estuary during the spring has been linked with the abundances of a number of species of aquatic organisms (Jassby et al. 1995), although the actual mechanisms underlying these relationships are poorly known (Kimmerer 2002a, b). The low salinity zone, defined as salinity 1–6, represents the optimal salinity for delta smelt in the summer and fall based on species occurrence (Feyrer et al. 2007; Nobriga et al. 2008). We used the estimates of daily outflow to calculate X2 according to the autoregressive model of Jassby et al. (1995): $X2_{(t)} = 10.16 + 0.945 X2_{(t-1)} - 1.487 LQ_{(t)}$, where $X2_{(t)}$ and $X2_{(t-1)}$ are the positions of salinity 2 at day (t) and ($t-1$), and LQ is the \log_{10} of daily mean net Delta outflow. We then calculated the mean monthly X2 for the period September through December. These months represent the sampling period for the Fall Midwater Trawl (FMWT), which is the primary survey used to index the size of the delta smelt population each year. These months represent the period when juvenile delta smelt develop into preadults and acquire the energy resources necessary for maturation and production of gametes. Current regulations apply to X2 position during spring to maintain salinities <2 for a given number of days per month at one of three locations in Suisun Bay according to the amount of freshwater storage and outflow to the Estuary.

Feyrer et al. (2010) developed an index for delta smelt habitat suitability during the fall (September–December) based on X2. Habitat suitability was considered a function of the surface area of the Estuary with suitable values of specific conductance (from which salinity can be calculated) and Secchi depth (a measure of water transparency related to turbidity). Abiotic habitat was defined using a generalized additive model of the probability of occurrence of delta smelt at a site based on specific conductance and Secchi depth. Model development was based on a 40-year record at 73 sites sampled by midwater trawl on a monthly basis from 1967 to 1988 (no sampling in 1974, 1979 and only October and November in 1976). A habitat index was then developed that accounted for both the quantity (surface area) and quality (probability of occurrence). A relationship between habitat suitability and X2 was then modeled using locally weighted-regression scatterplot smoothing

(LOESS regression). For the model, X2 was calculated as the mean X2 over the September to December sampling period. The final generalized additive model explained 26 % of the variation in delta smelt occurrence. The habitat index shows a sigmoidal increase in habitat suitability for delta smelt with decreasing X2 (Fig. 3). The regression explained 85 % of the variance in the relation between X2 and the habitat index. The habitat index ranged in value from 1,932 to 8,982 over the 42-year period of sampling and has shown a declining trend (Fig. 3). Feyrer et al. (2010) applied the index to assess future habitat conditions based on a different set of climate change scenarios than we consider here.

Calculation of the habitat index for future scenarios assumes that the associations of salinity and turbidity with X2 and the physical configuration of the delta remain unchanged as climate change proceeds. It is highly unlikely that this will be the case for salinity. Cloern et al. (2011) estimated sea-level rise of about 80 and 125 cm for the PCM B1 and GFDL A2 scenarios, respectively, which would tend to increase saltwater intrusion into the Delta. Cloern et al. (2011) also utilized the Uncle–Peterson box model of

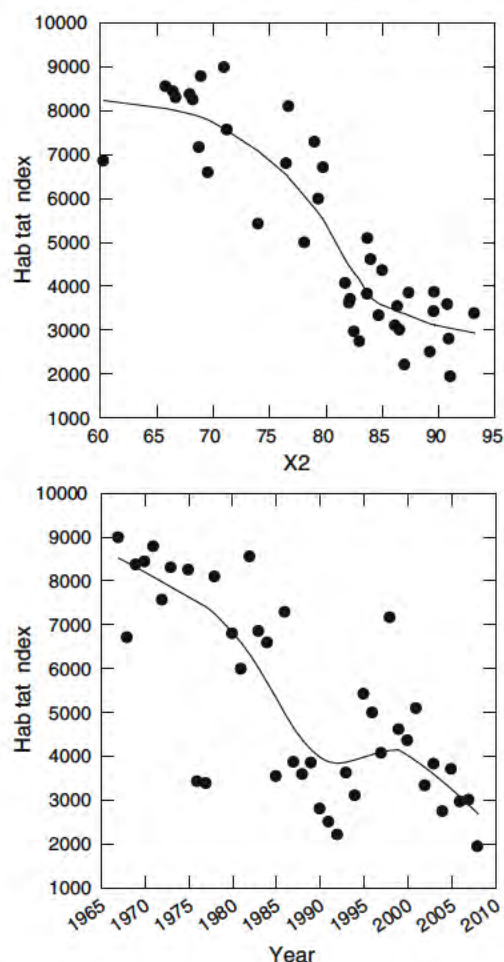


Fig. 3 Relationship of habitat index with X2 and changes in habitat index over time. Modified from Feyrer et al. (2010)

salinity as applied in previous studies (Peterson et al. 1995; Knowles et al. 1998) combined with short-term, two-month applications of a Delft3D hydrodynamics model (Lesser et al. 2004) to estimate a median increase in salinity in the northern Estuary of about 0.33 and 0.46/decade for the two scenarios, respectively. However, the present study relies on estimates of X2, which the Uncles–Peterson model is not well-suited to estimate. This is especially true when X2 is in the lower Delta, which is highly idealized in the Uncles–Peterson model and strongly influenced by the upstream model boundary. The results of Cloern et al. (2011) concerning the influence of sea level rise on salinities in the northern San Francisco Bay could therefore not be translated into corresponding X2 changes in the Delta. Our results concerning the habitat index, which is based in part on X2 estimates, likely underestimate the effects of climate change because sea level rise effects are not included, and because one of the top priorities in CALSIM II is the prevention of saltwater intrusion, which degrades the quality of exported water. It is likely that excessive groundwater extraction in the CALSIM model to compensate for changes in freshwater availability due to upstream hydro-meteorological changes (see Cloern et al. 2011) allows for more efficient repulsion of saltwater than would occur in reality. Testing the constant turbidity assumption is considered in the next section.

Turbidity Model

The habitat index will also be sensitive to changes in turbidity over time. Sediment delivery from the Sacramento River watershed to the San Francisco Bay has decreased by about one half during the period of 1957–2001 (Wright and Schoellhamer 2004). As these changes in sediment delivery have occurred, turbidity within the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta during the last four decades has decreased by approximately 50 % (Jassby et al. 2002; Jassby 2008). We limit our analysis of turbidity to the Rio Vista station because freshwater discharge from the Sacramento River is a primary driver for the fluctuations in turbidity at Rio Vista and Rio Vista is centered within a critical delta smelt habitat corridor. Our analysis describes the Sacramento River corridor portion of the Delta. Turbidity processes at Antioch and Mallard Island are complicated by tidal exchange between sites and with Suisun Bay where wind resuspension of deposited sediment is common. Juvenile and adult delta smelt appear to prefer turbidities above about 12–18 NTU (secchi depth of 40–50 cm) presumably to reduce predation risk (Feyrer et al. 2007, 2010; Nobriga et al. 2008).

We determined the portion of time that turbidity is less than 18 NTU at Rio Vista as a function of Sacramento River discharge. Turbidity time series data (15-min event data) for the Sacramento River at Rio Vista from 2008 to

2010 were obtained from the California Department of Water Resources Environmental Monitoring Program (data available at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/>). Sacramento River discharge data was obtained from the US Geological Survey and is the daily sum of Sacramento River at Freeport (USGS station 11455420) and the Yolo Bypass at Woodland (USGS station 11447650) (data available at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/>). A group average technique (Glysson 1987) was applied to overcome two common problems in relating discharge and turbidity: (1) suspended-sediment concentrations and thus turbidity are often not linearly related to discharge and (2) regression analyses are often influenced by a mass of point at the low discharges with one slope and fewer points at higher discharges with a different slope. Discharge bins were created based on equal increments between the minimum and maximum of the log transformed discharge values. A percentage of time (days) with turbidity <18 NTU was then calculated for each discharge bin (Fig. 4). For each scenario, each value for daily discharge in a year was assigned to the appropriate bin and the corresponding percentage applied to calculate the percentage of time each year with turbidity <18 NTU. We calculated two possibilities for the annual percent time turbidity <18 NTU for each of the four climate scenarios: (1) assuming that the relationship of turbidity to discharge was constant and (2) assuming that turbidity would continue to decline at the 1975–2008 rate of 1.6 % per year (Cloern et al. 2011).

Water Temperature Models

Details of the water temperature models are available in Wagner et al. (2011). In short, we calculated daily average water temperature from a regression model for each location (Rio Vista, Antioch, and Mallard Island, Fig. 1) of the general form:

$$T(n) = aT_a(n) + bT(n-1) + cR(n) + d$$

where T represents modeled water temperature, n is the day for which the temperature is being calculated, T_a is the

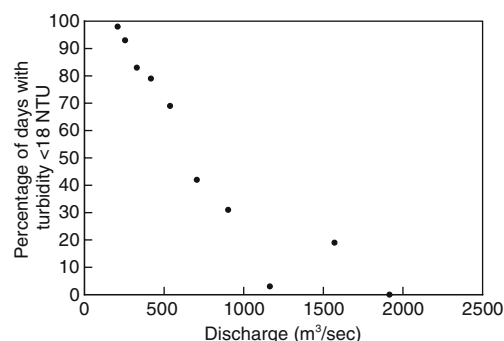


Fig. 4 Relationship of the percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU with discharge (m^3/s) at Rio Vista

current day's air temperature, a is the coefficient of the current day's air temperature, b is the coefficient of the previous day's water temperature, c is the coefficient on the current day's insolation, and d is a constant offset. Thus, the predicted water temperature on a particular day depends on air temperature, insolation, and water temperature the previous day. Each location has a separate set of coefficients (Wagner et al. 2011). Developing the models depended on the availability of a minimum of 1 year of daily water temperature data. The models for the three sites used in this study performed well with $R^2 > 0.93$ for calibration and verification data sets.

Downscaled average daily air temperatures from the climate change scenarios were subsampled for the Delta region and then averaged to produce Delta daily average temperature 2000 through 2100. The climate projections did not provide insolation, so Wagner et al. (2011) estimated the average daily insolation from historical data, assuming that insolation will be constant over the century. These data values were then used to generate daily average water temperature for each of the climate change scenarios. An example plot of a single year of output data from the GFDL A2 scenario is shown in Fig. 5.

Delta Smelt Temperature Metrics

Increasing water temperatures are likely to affect many aspects of delta smelt life history. Both the timing and duration of the spawning window might influence delta smelt spawning success. As explained earlier, delta smelt spawn in the spring within a temperature window of approximately 15–20 °C (Bennett 2005). We determined two metrics for spawning, the Julian date of the midpoint (mean) of the spawning window and the duration in days of the spawning window (Table 2, Fig. 5). Water temperature

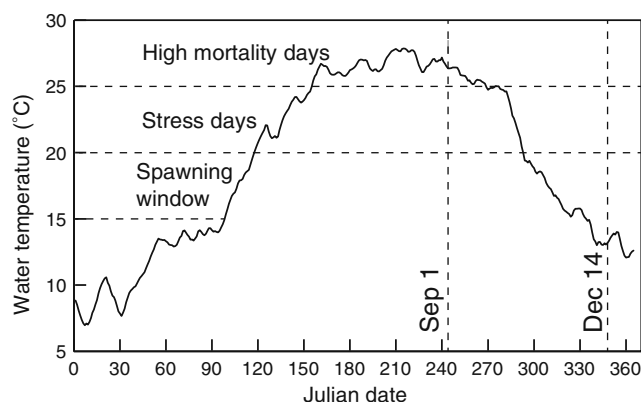


Fig. 5 Daily average water temperature for 2090 at Rio Vista. Dashed lines depict temperature values used to calculate the metrics listed in Table 2. The fall midwater trawl, the major survey used to index the delta smelt population, occurs from September (Sep) 1 to December (Dec) 14

continues to increase in the spring when juvenile delta smelt are present in the Delta. Catches decline rapidly as temperatures increase from 20 to 25 °C and delta smelt are rarely captured at water temperatures >25 °C (Bennett 2005; Feyrer et al. 2007; Nobriga et al. 2008). We presume that this decline in catches indicates avoidance by delta smelt, and we include the number of days with water temperatures of 20–25 °C as a metric of increasing temperature stress (Table 2, Fig. 5). This interpretation is supported by histopathological evidence from field specimens captured in this temperature range, primarily glycogen depletion and liver abnormalities (Bennett et al. 2008). Water temperatures above 25 °C seem likely to cause high mortality. This temperature (25 °C) was determined as the acute lethal limit of delta smelt when acclimated to 17 °C (Swanson et al. 2000). Moreover, recent observations of control groups of delta smelt held as part of mark–recapture studies (Castillo et al. 2010) indicated that exposure of well-fed, unstressed, hatchery-reared delta smelt to ambient water temperatures >25 °C for several days resulted in poor survival. The observed mortality was not reversed when ambient water temperature declined below 25 °C, suggesting irreversible physiological impairment. Thus, number of days with water temperatures >25 °C is one of our metrics (Table 2, Fig. 5). We also calculate stress days and high mortality days (Table 2, Fig. 5) from 1 September to 14 December each year. This is the period that corresponds to the fall midwater trawl and the habitat index. In general, this is the time period when somatic growth declines and production of reproductive products, primarily eggs and sperm, increases. Increased stress or mortality during this time period will affect reproductive output of the population.

Statistical Analyses

We evaluated trends in the metrics using the Mann–Kendall test (Helsel and Hirsch 2002). The Mann–Kendall test is an application of Kendall's tau to time series data. The overall trend slope is computed as the median of all slopes between data pairs. We chose a nonparametric test because we had no expectation for the shape of any of the relationships. The main question of interest is whether there was a consistent trend. Trend lines presented in figures are based on locally weighted regressions (LOWESS) (Systat 11 2004). For clarity of presentation, we did not graph individual data points for the temperature metrics from each scenario. For temperature metric baseline data without trends, we graphed a band representing the 95 % confidence interval of the mean. For baseline data with statistically significant but relatively minor trends, we graphed a band representing the 95 % confidence interval of the mean of the final 20 years of the series. Note that the beginning of a particular time series will not necessarily fall within the 95 % confidence interval of the

baseline mean. To further explore observed patterns in X2 and habitat index, we compared the variances and values of the baseline and the scenarios, using an *F* test and Mann–Whitney *U* test, respectively.

Results

X2 and Habitat Index

A striking result for fall X2 was the loss of variability compared to the baseline period (Fig. 6). The scenarios had lower variance in fall X2 (*F* test, all $P < 0.001$) and higher fall X2 values (Mann–Whitney *U* test, all $P < 0.001$) than the baseline series. However, care must be taken in interpreting this shift, as it is due in part to behavior inherent in the models used. This is addressed further in “Discussion.” There was no trend in fall X2 for the baseline period (Mann–Kendall, $P < 0.05$). Of the climate scenarios, only the GFDL A2 scenario exhibited a trend (slight positive trend; Mann–Kendall, $P < 0.05$). Mean values of fall X2 increased by about 7 km, and standard deviations for the scenarios were half or less of the standard deviation for the baseline period (Table 3). The mean fall X2s for the scenarios were generally near Antioch (Fig. 1).

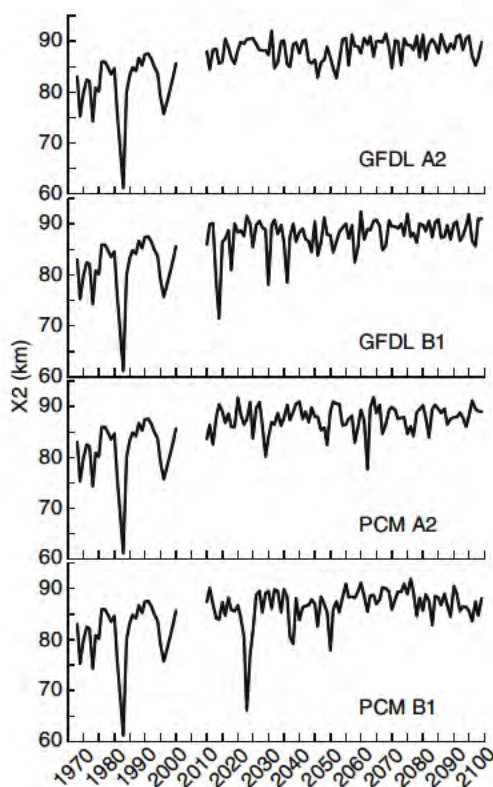


Fig. 6 Values of X2 (distance of the salinity 2 isohaline from the Golden Gate) for the baseline period and each scenario. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

Because fall X2 is used to calculate the habitat index, it is not surprising that the habitat index also exhibits a loss in variability (Fig. 7). The habitat index values for the scenarios had lower variance (*F* test, all $P < 0.001$) and lower values (Mann–Whitney *U* test, all $P < 0.001$) than the baseline series, especially beyond about 2050 (Fig. 7). The loss of variance was even more striking for the habitat index because fall X2 was generally >85 km and the slope of the relationship between fall X2 and the habitat index is much shallower in this range of values compared to X2 values <80 km (Fig. 3). There was no trend in the fall habitat index for the baseline period (Mann–Kendall, $P < 0.05$). Only the PCM A2 scenario exhibited a significant trend (slight negative trend; Mann–Kendall, $P < 0.01$). Mean fall habitat index values were approximately 70 % of the baseline value with standard deviations of half or less of the baseline value.

Turbidity

There were significant trends in the percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU for all scenarios at the Rio Vista station when the trend of declining turbidity was projected into the future (Fig. 8). During the last 20–40 years of each scenario, the percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU was centered above 90 %. There was a significant trend during the baseline period for the percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU (Fig. 8), but this was not surprising given that observed turbidity within the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta has decreased by approximately 50 % during the last four decades (Jassby et al. 2002; Jassby 2008).

For the scenarios, when we assumed no change in the flow–turbidity relationship at the Rio Vista station, there was a significant trend in the percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU only for the GFDL A2 scenario (Fig. 8). The positive trend was likely due to a series of years near the end of the scenario with a high percentage of days with low turbidity. The annual mean (\pm SD) percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU ranged from 63 ± 13 % (PCM B1) to 69 ± 11 % (GFDL A2) among the four scenarios. Minimums ranged from 19 % (PCM B1) to 49 % (GFDL A2) and maximums ranged from 88 % (GFDL B1) to 91 % (GFDL A2). The annual mean (\pm SD) percentage of days with turbidity <18 NTU during the final 20 years of each scenario ranged from 60 ± 7 % (PCM B1) to 76 ± 11 % (GFDL A2).

Spawning Window

The duration of the spawning window exhibited little response to climate change. There were trends in the length of the spawning window only for the GFDL A2 scenario in which all sites exhibited significant trends (Fig. 9). The actual changes were relatively modest with a maximum difference of about 10–15 days between the minimum and

Table 3 Mean (\pm SD) of selected metrics for the baseline period and four scenarios of climate change

Metric Site	Baseline	GFDL A2	GFDL B1	PCM A2	PCM B1
Fall X2 (km)	81 \pm 9	88 \pm 2	88 \pm 3	88 \pm 3	87 \pm 4
Habitat suitability index	4,655 \pm 1,497	3,157 \pm 205	3,306 \pm 756	3,241 \pm 476	3,414 \pm 829
Mean number spawning days					
At Antioch	58 \pm 18	52 \pm 13	54 \pm 16	52 \pm 13	52 \pm 12
At Mallard Island	60 \pm 17	53 \pm 15	58 \pm 12	60 \pm 15	56 \pm 14
At Rio Vista	54 \pm 17	46 \pm 12	48 \pm 13	51 \pm 15	49 \pm 14

maximum length of the spawning window. There were slightly more spawning days each year during the baseline period compared to the scenarios (Table 3).

The mean date of the spawning window was more responsive to climate change than duration with the spawning window generally occurring earlier over the course of the scenarios (Fig. 10). There were no trends evident for the baseline periods. Overall, the trends are very similar among the three sites, with mean dates at Antioch approximately ten days earlier than at Mallard or Rio Vista each year. Over the entire length of each scenario, the mean spawning date occurred about 10 days earlier for GFDL B1 and PCM B1, about 15 days earlier for PCM A2, and about 20–25 days earlier for GFDL A2. Scenarios GFDL A2 and PCM A2 appeared to produce the greatest departures from the baseline period (Fig. 10).

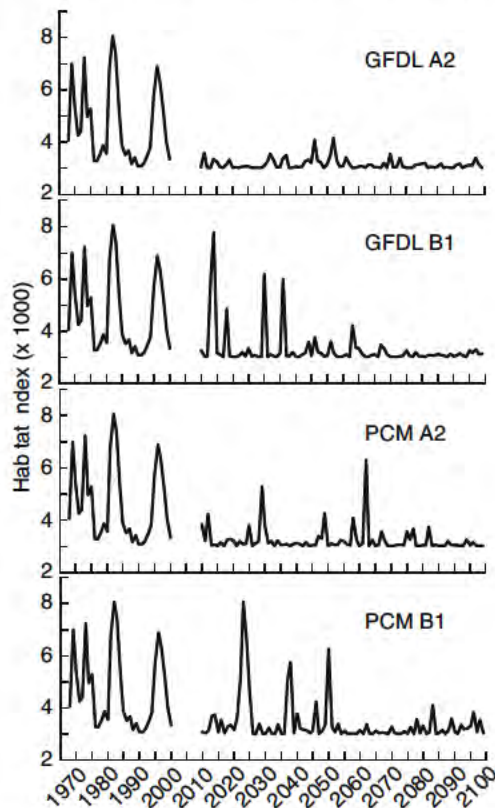


Fig. 7 Values for the delta smelt fall habitat suitability index (Feyrer et al. 2010) for the baseline period and each scenario. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

Stress and High Mortality Days

The trends for total number of stress days tended to stay flat or decline (Fig. 11), while total number of high mortality days (Fig. 12) increased for all scenarios. There were no trends during the baseline period at any site. Overall, the

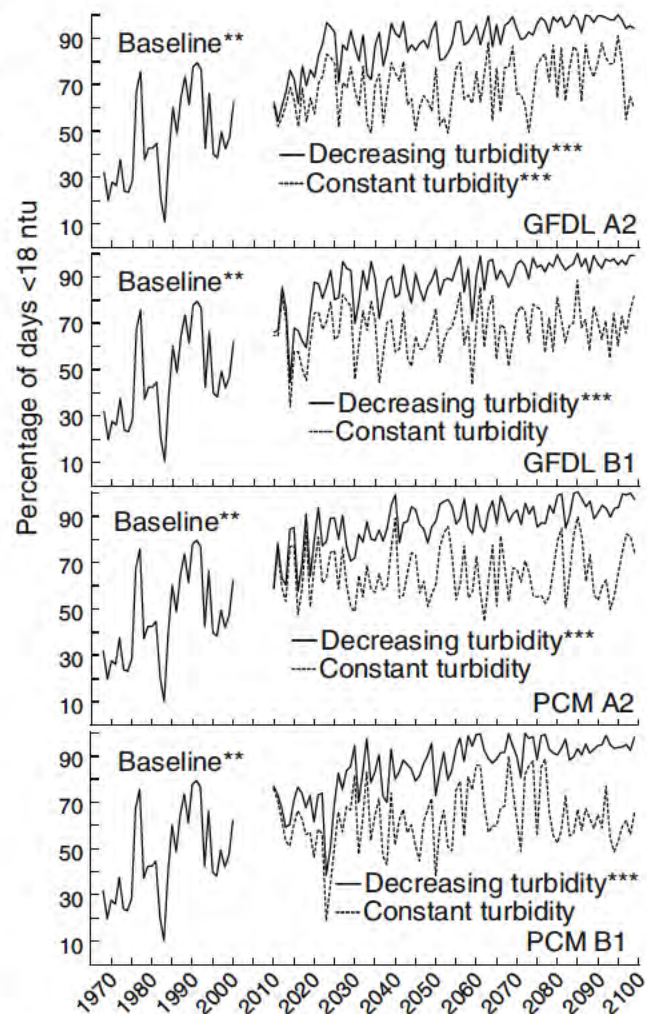


Fig. 8 Percentage of time with turbidity < 18 NTU for the site at Rio Vista for each scenario. Values were calculated assuming a constant flow turbidity relationship and assuming turbidity declining at the current rate. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

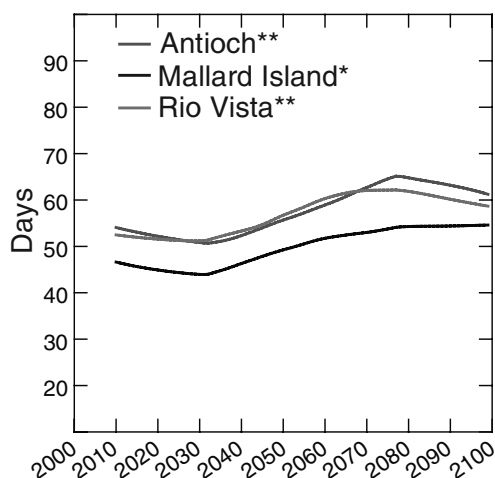


Fig. 9 Trends (LOWESS smooths) for the number of days in the spawning window (15–20 °C) for the GFDL A2 scenario for each site. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

baseline number of high mortality days was low. During the baseline period, high mortality days occurred in 20 of 40 years at Antioch (5 ± 7 , range=2–25 days), in 7 years at Rio Vista (1 ± 2 , range=1–10 days), and in 1 year with 7 high mortality days at Mallard Island.

In the scenarios, the trends at the Antioch site were generally negative for stress days and positive for high mortality days. At Mallard Island, there was only a significant decline in stress days for the GFDL A2 scenario, but all scenarios exhibited a positive trend in high mortality days. The increase was especially great for the latter third of the GFDL A2 and PCM A2 scenarios, increasing by about 100 and 40 days, respectively. The patterns at Rio Vista were similar to those observed at Mallard Island, except that the increases in high mortality days were somewhat greater, especially for the B1 scenarios. The trends in stress days were not far outside the range of the 95 % confidence interval of the mean for the baseline period (Fig. 11) except for Mallard Island and the GFDL A2 scenario at all three sites. The values for high mortality days rapidly exceeded even the maximum observed during the baseline period at each site.

During the fall period, water temperature projections are particularly appropriate because X2 is bracketed by the Mallard Island and Rio Vista sites with Antioch located in the mid-range of the projected values (Fig. 1). This means that the projected temperatures are occurring in the area where delta smelt are most likely to occur. Significant trends in number of stress days in the fall were sporadic (Fig. 13).

At the Antioch site, there was no trend during the baseline period, but there was a negative trend for the GFDL A2 scenario. There was a positive trend for PCM A2 although the data actually showed an increase and then a decrease (Fig. 13). Only the GFDL A2 scenario had a trend that

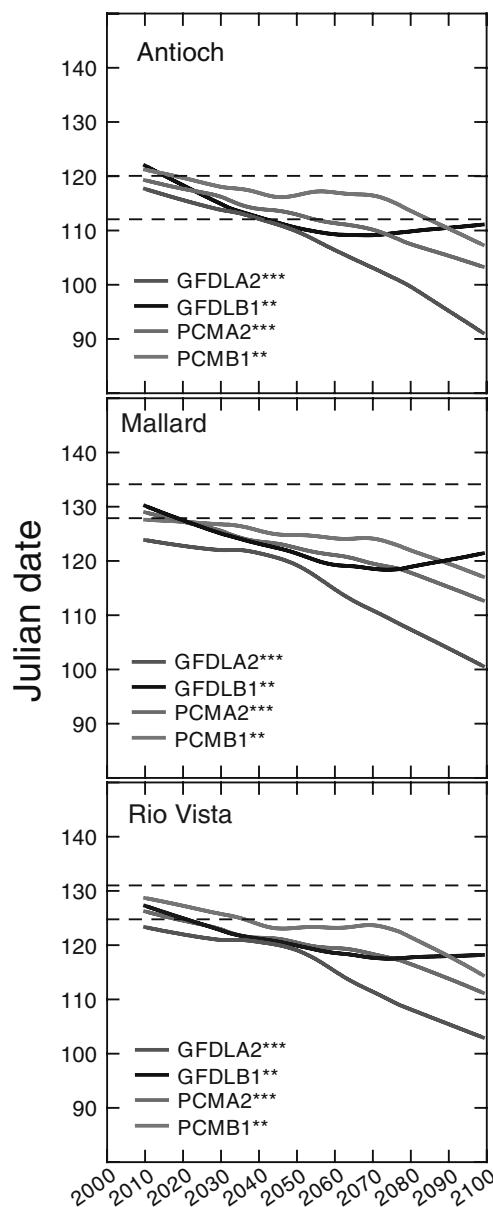


Fig. 10 Trends (LOWESS smooths) in the mean Julian date of the spawning window for each site. The dashed lines represent the 95 % confidence interval for the mean of the baseline data. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

deviated substantially from the baseline period. At Mallard Island, there was a positive trend in number of stress days in the fall during the baseline period (not graphed). During the first half of the baseline period the mean value was 36 ± 8 (range=22–49). During the second half, the mean value was 45 ± 9 (range=30–67). There were significant positive trends for GFDL B1 and PCM A2 (Fig. 13); however, neither scenario appeared to deviate substantially from the baseline. Similar to Mallard Island, at Rio Vista there was a positive trend in number of stress days in the fall during the

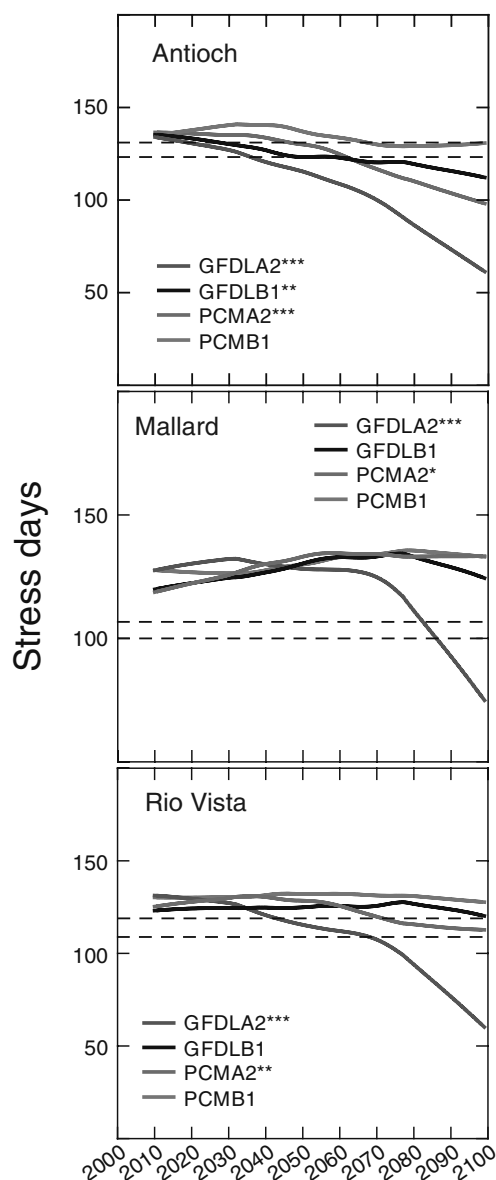


Fig. 11 Trends (LOWESS smooths) in the number of stress days (20–25 °C) for each site. The dashed lines represent the 95 % confidence interval for the mean of the baseline data. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann–Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

baseline period (not graphed). During the first half of the baseline period the mean value was 39 ± 8 (range=22–50). During the second half, the mean value was 48 ± 9 (range=31–67). There was a significant positive trend for PCM A2 (Fig. 13); however, the trend did not appear to deviate substantially from the baseline. The trend for scenario GFDL A2 was not statistically significant by the Mann–Kendall test; however, there did seem to be a negative trend developing after 2070 (Fig. 13).

High mortality days during the FMWT period were rare during the baseline period but generally showed slight to strongly positive trends during the scenarios (Fig. 14).

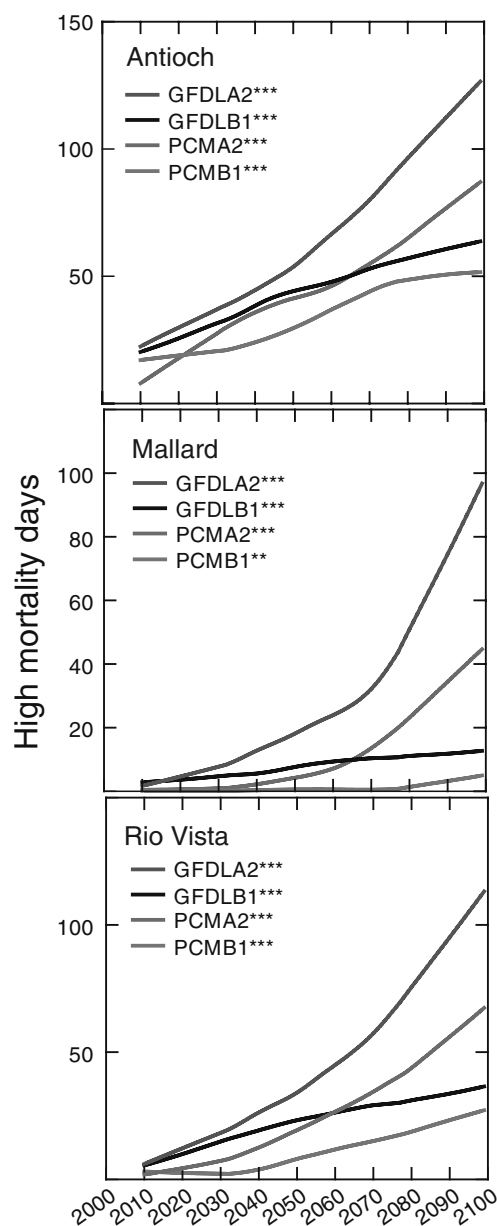


Fig. 12 Trends (LOWESS smooths) in the number of high mortality days (>25 °C) for each site. Mean baseline values are all near 0. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann–Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

During baseline, there were no high mortality days at Mallard Island and only two high mortality days at Rio Vista in 1996. High mortality days occurred during 3 years at Antioch with a maximum of 6 days. There were significant positive trends for all four scenarios at Antioch (Fig. 14). The most substantial increase in more than 30 days occurred for GFDL A2. A change of about 15 days occurred for PCM A2. At Mallard Island and Rio Vista, only the GFDL A2 scenario exhibited trends with changes of more than 10 days. Overall, the changes were most substantial for

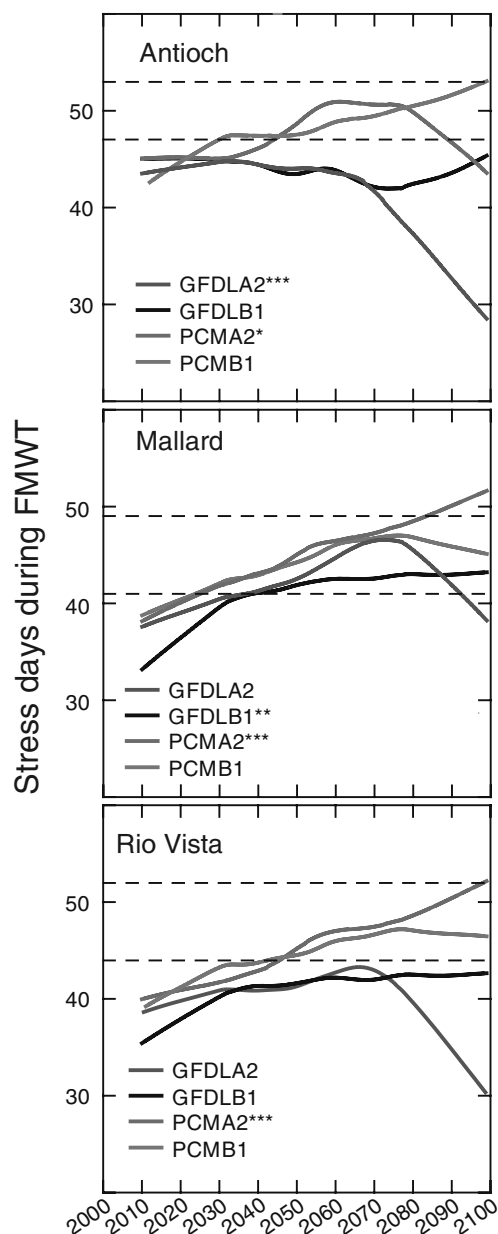


Fig. 13 Trends (LOWESS smooths) in the number of stress days (20–25 °C) for each site during the fall midwater trawl survey (FMWT; 1 September–14 December). The dashed lines represent the 95 % confidence interval for the mean of the baseline data. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann–Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

GFDL A2, which exhibited a sharp increase in high mortality days at all three sites. The other scenarios did not show substantial differences from the baseline period.

Discussion

Numerous studies have assessed the possible effects of climate change on California water resources (e.g., Knowles

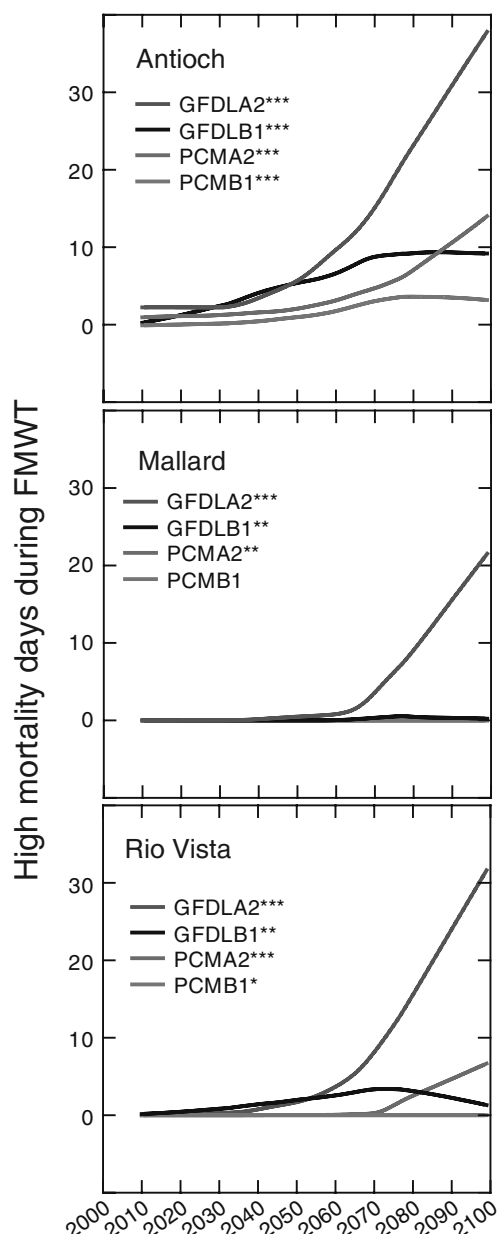


Fig. 14 Trends (LOWESS smooths) in the number of high mortality days (>25 °C) for each site during the fall midwater trawl survey (FMWT; 1 September–14 December). Mean baseline values are all near 0. Statistically significant trends based on the Mann–Kendall test are indicated by * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$. See Table 2 for scenario definitions

and Cayan 2002, 2004; Knowles et al. 2006; Dettinger et al. 2009; Cloern et al. 2011); however, the effects of climate change on aquatic organisms have not been addressed in detail, with a few exceptions (e.g., Yates et al. 2008; Feyrer et al. 2010). Our results suggest that climate change could have important effects on habitat conditions for delta smelt in the Delta with respect to the position of the salinity field and water temperature. Turbidity could also change; however, this is more related to concurrent declines in sediment transport

rather than climate change. This does not diminish the importance of possible changes in turbidity and highlights the fact that climate change will occur within a framework of other human-caused changes to the environment. Considering all such interventions poses a major challenge for projecting possible conditions in the future. In short, our results suggest that Delta waters could become warmer and clearer, and the salinity field may move further upstream and become less variable in the fall. Such conditions are considered undesirable for delta smelt and other native fishes (Moyle and Bennett 2008; Moyle et al. 2010) and could affect a large portion of remaining habitat.

Based on our projections, there will be substantially less physical habitat (as defined by salinity, temperature, and turbidity) available for delta smelt as climate change occurs through the end of the current century. The fall salinity field moves east to almost 90 km from the Golden Gate in all scenarios. This is roughly equivalent to an X2 observed only during the worst droughts experienced during the baseline period (1976–1977 and 1987–1992) (Fig. 6), during which delta smelt abundance was low (Bennett 2005). Because the calculation of the habitat index is based on X2, it also converges on low values associated with droughts during the baseline period (Fig. 7). The lack of variability may be particularly important. Moyle et al. (2010) suggest that increased spatiotemporal variability in salinity over current conditions will decrease abundances of key invasive species and likely increase abundances of delta smelt and other native species. The situation with turbidity is less clear with trends ranging from no change to continued decline, depending on our assumption about future sediment supply to the estuary.

The habitat index model incorporates turbidity values from the baseline period, but does not account for the likelihood of future declines in turbidity. Although high turbidity is still expected during the winter and spring during high outflows, the habitat index applies during the fall, when low turbidity conditions could occur >90 % of the time. Thus, fall habitat quality could be further compromised. Water temperatures likely to cause high mortality of delta smelt could occur during the summer at all sites. In the region bracketing X2, water temperatures increase to levels likely to cause delta smelt mortality as do water temperatures in the freshwater portions of the northern Delta, as represented by the Rio Vista site. Higher water temperatures may also extend into the fall, rendering the waters near Antioch and Rio Vista, traditionally the center of delta smelt fall distribution, less suitable or even uninhabitable (GFDL A2 scenario) for the species by mid-century. Thus, delta smelt may be restricted to Suisun Bay where tolerable temperatures are more likely to occur (Wagner et al. 2011), but at higher salinities than optimal.

The possible combined effects of degraded habitat conditions in summer and fall with an earlier spawning window could present an extremely challenging set of circumstances for an annual fish. Delta smelt would be forced to grow under more stressful conditions during summer and fall with less time to mature because of an advanced spawning season. Such conditions could result in a decrease in size of maturing delta smelt. Because fecundity of delta smelt is dependent on length (Bennett 2005), smaller mean length would result in lower reproductive output of the population. Such a decrease in mean length was noted in the 1990s, possibly a result of changes in food availability (Bennett 2005). In addition, recent field data indicate that delta smelt can produce at least two clutches of eggs under favorable conditions (L. Damon, California Department of Fish and Game, unpublished data), supporting earlier observations made during laboratory culture (Bennett 2005). A decreased time for maturation and storage of energy reserves could decrease the probability of multiple clutches, as well as the proportion of females able to mature each year. Thus, future changes in environmental conditions may alter the timing of the delta smelt life cycle with possible effects on reproductive success. Moreover, further declines in sediment loading may reduce turbidity levels during spring and summer. High turbidity is assumed to provide a refuge from predators and provide a cue for upstream movement of mature adults (Grimaldo et al. 2009; Sommer et al. 2011). In spring, the suspended sediment particles causing turbidity may be important for enhancing early feeding and survival of larvae, based on laboratory studies (Baskerville-Bridges et al. 2004a, b).

We chose to target potential changes that are likely to be relevant for delta smelt because it is an endangered species that will continue to be a major focus of management actions. However, other species in the Estuary and watershed could also be affected by climate change (Yates et al. 2008). Threatened and endangered races of Chinook salmon and steelhead rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* must move through the Delta on their way to and from spawning grounds as do Pacific lamprey *Lampetra tridentata* and river lamprey *L. ayersi*. Water temperatures of 20–22 °C can be lethal to migrating adult Chinook salmon (McCullough 1999), and water temperatures above 20 °C can inhibit smoltification of outmigrating juvenile salmon (McCullough 1999), which can delay migration or reduce survival as they move into salt water. Thus, changes in survival or disruption of natural migration timing could occur. White sturgeon *Acipenser transmontanus* and threatened green sturgeon *A. medirostris* must move through the Delta to spawn in the Sacramento River. The upper temperature tolerance for white sturgeon is considered to be 25 °C (Israel et al. 2009). The clearer, warmer conditions that may occur would likely favor an

array of freshwater invasive fishes over the native fishes (Moyle and Bennett 2008), which prefer cooler water than the invasives (Moyle 2002). Habitat restoration efforts should therefore consider the role of climate change. It is possible that the positive benefits of habitat restoration efforts for native species in the Delta could be reduced by water temperatures exceeding those needed for maintaining desirable species during much of the year. Such restoration efforts may simply increase habitat for invasive fishes if they do not specifically address measures to provide cool-water refugia.

The scenario evaluations presented here incorporate a number of underlying assumptions and methodological limitations, which require caution in the interpretation of our results. For one, the apparent reduction in variability of the X2 and habitat indices must be interpreted carefully, as it can be partially an artifact of the approach used. As described earlier, historically based gridded meteorological data were used to drive the hydrologic and CALSIM models for the baseline period, while downscaled GCM data were used for the future projections. The difference in these approaches contributes to the apparent shift in variability differently for each scenario. For example, the GFDL model tends to have substantially reduced precipitation variability (which ultimately contributes to X2 variability) compared to the historical record. However, PCM tends to have only slightly smaller precipitation variability than the historical record, suggesting that other factors are also playing a role in the trend toward reduced variability evident in Figs. 6 and 7.

Another factor contributing to a shift toward reduced variability in the future scenarios of X2 relative to baseline conditions is the different “levels of development” (LOD) used in the baseline and future runs (2000 and 2020 LODs, respectively). The LOD incorporates projections of future population and agricultural demands to estimate future freshwater demand. The increase in freshwater demands in the 2020 LOD over the 2000 LOD, due primarily to a projected population increase, has the effect of increasing competition for the freshwater supply among the various uses. In the CALSIM model (and likely in reality if the current regulatory goals were unchanged), this means just enough water is released to keep X2 near the regulatory limits, with little “excess” flow. The end result is an apparent abrupt shift in X2 variability and, to a lesser degree, in its position, between the 2000 LOD baseline and the 2020 LOD future scenarios. While the abruptness of this shift is an artifact of the modeling approach, the factors behind it, and its occurrence in a less abrupt manner, are not unrealistic outcomes. Indeed, our use of the 2020 LOD throughout the twenty-first century means that our projections past 2020 very likely underestimate freshwater demand, rendering our results conservative in the sense that freshwater availability

for the purpose of salinity (X2) repulsion is likely to be overestimated. The fact that CALSIM II resorts to unrealistic levels of groundwater pumping to compensate for reduced surface-water availability only magnifies this conclusion, particularly in very dry scenarios such as GFDL A2.

Feyrer et al. (2010) also evaluated the effects of climate change (through 2040) on delta smelt habitat and obtained results similar to ours with declines in habitat and decreased variability. As in our results, conditions converged on drought conditions during dry and critically dry years. Feyrer et al. (2010) also depended on CALSIM II results for projection of habitat and they noted many of the same issues we note above.

We also did not consider sea level rise in these analyses even though various studies indicate that sea level is currently rising and will have substantial effects on the San Francisco Estuary (Knowles 2010; Lund et al. 2010) and delta smelt habitat (Feyrer et al. 2010). Such effects include increased salt water intrusion into Suisun Bay and the Delta (Cloern et al. 2011) and increasing likelihood of levee failures and flooding of areas around Suisun Bay, within the Delta, and in peripheral areas of the Delta (Mount and Twiss 2005; Knowles 2010; Lund et al. 2010). Although some modeling studies have assessed the effects of sea level rise on inundation of marshes (Orr et al. 2003; Strahlberg et al. 2011), they did not address salinity intrusion in a quantitative way. Feyrer et al. (2010) included one climate change scenario incorporating sea level rise (0.33 m and 10 % increase in tidal range) in their study and found no significant saltwater intrusion; however, their scenarios were based on CALSIM II output assuming *only* sea level rise without the interactive effects of climate change. Brekke (2008), the source of the data for Feyrer et al. (2010), noted that a 0.33 m sea level rise combined with the drier climate change scenarios would lead to decreases in mean-annual water deliveries and end-of-September carryover storage. Fleenor et al. (2008) also considered the effects of sea level rise but restricted their analysis to historical data at existing monitoring stations and did not consider climate change interactively with sea level rise. They did consider the effects of flooded islands and various configurations for a new water diversion canal around the periphery of the Delta (peripheral canal). The results were complex and depended on assumptions, but sea level rise increased Delta salinity when considered alone and contributed to salinity increases associated with the other factors. Moyle et al. (2010) used modeling by Fleenor et al. (2008) to estimate that salinity, measured as X2, would intrude an additional 5 km for each 0.3 m of sea level rise. Unfortunately, the regression model for calculating the habitat suitability index does not extend beyond an X2 of 95 km (Fig. 3) and extrapolation into the complex channel network of the Delta seems unwise. In short, there is

evidence to suggest sea level rise will increase salinity intrusion into the Delta, changing the distribution of physical habitat for delta smelt, but we do not yet have the tools to quantitatively describe such changes.

Our temperature models are statistical in nature and may no longer be applicable if there are major changes in infrastructure. The temperature models are based on data from fixed shore stations that do not sample the entire water column. There are important lateral and vertical variations in temperature that might preserve some areas of cooler water as climate change proceeds (Wagner 2012).

Finally, our study makes the obviously unrealistic assumption that freshwater management strategies and infrastructure will remain unchanged for the rest of the century. Therefore, it is our hope that these results, representing potential changes to the environment, be used as a guide for designing future management capabilities and strategies. Well-designed human modifications of Delta management and infrastructure (e.g., intentional flooding of interior islands) or changes in water management may well mitigate some of the anticipated outcomes from climate change, including projected increases in water temperature. There have been numerous suggestions made for reconfiguring the Delta to meet the needs of the ecosystem and water supply, including habitat restoration, flooding islands, and construction of a tunnel or peripheral canal for water diversions (e.g., Lund et al. 2010; Moyle et al. 2010, 2012); however, a final plan for implementing such changes has not yet been finalized (see <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/current-draft-of-delta-plan>). Once such decisions are made, understanding the quantitative effects of changes in Delta infrastructure, landscape, and water management on variables like delta smelt physical habitat (e.g., salinity, water temperature, and turbidity) will require complex hydrodynamic, water management, and habitat models. In addition, these models will have to be applied for multiple scenarios of climate change and water management. Such models are currently being developed but the modeling challenges are formidable.

Given that our results could be interpreted to imply that the Delta is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for delta smelt in the future, we caution that we are presenting plausible scenarios of climate change and not quantitative predictions. Clearly, there are still many uncertainties associated with assessments of the potential effects of climate change in the San Francisco Estuary. However, our results suggest that the potential effects could be substantial. This is especially sobering given that our most extreme scenario for greenhouse gas emissions (A2) is already below observed emissions and is increasingly considered to reflect the midrange of possible futures (Raupach et al. 2007). Uncertainty will be reduced as models improve; however, we suggest that actions being considered to improve habitat

for native organisms should also carefully consider the potential effects of climate change over a range of possible scenarios. Actions that provide a range of future options for conserving (or even relocating) these species are most desirable because they will help prevent investments with short-term benefits that are lost over the long term as factors such as water temperature change over the coming decades. The problems posed by climate change are not unique to the San Francisco Estuary and will provide challenges to resource managers and researchers across the globe.

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To: Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
From: Davis, Landon
Sent: 2018-01-04T12:19:09-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: ESA/Species Specific Protective Measures
Received: 2018-01-04T12:19:18-05:00

Are you available tomorrow afternoon?

To: Frazer, Gary[gary_frazer@fws.gov]
Cc: Skipwith, Aurelia[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Gina Shultz[GINA_SHULTZ@fws.gov]; Rauch, Paul[paul_rauch@fws.gov]; Don Morgan[Don_Morgan@fws.gov]
From: Howke, Steven
Sent: 2018-01-04T14:31:50-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: November Grants
Received: 2018-01-04T14:32:17-05:00

Thank you for the responses.
Steve

On Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 10:58 AM, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov> wrote:

Steven/Aurelia -- Responses to your questions regarding some of the ESA section 6 grants in the November tranche follow:

Line 18: cooperative endangered species fund project with California column on flexibility answered no letter already issued. Would like to know more about this process and why letter issued prior to DOI approval.

*This is a Traditional Conservation Grant entered into the spreadsheet by the Region. The FWS regional office works cooperatively with the State of California to develop a list of projects proposed for funding in a fiscal year. The state submits pre proposals for all of the projects they would like to be considered. A letter is sent from the Service ARD to the state containing a list of projects for which we invite the state to submit a full proposal. The region inadvertently characterized this as an "award letter." The region recognizes that no awards over \$100,000 can be made without Secretarial approval.

Line 22: Endangered species grants land acquisition in Florida How much land and who is the seller?

* This is an FY 2013 Recovery Land Acquisition grant that is seeking permission to obligate. 12 acres will be acquired. The landowners are Gail Wilson and Linda Borkoski as Co Trustees under the Robert J Cannon and the Ava L. Cannon Revocable Trusts.

Lines 25 27 Also ES grants notes say they are all resubmissions. Why? What was the issue with the first submission?

*These are all for Traditional Conservation grants entered by regions 2 and 4. Rachel Rosen in WSFR HQ asked the regions to add information into the spreadsheet. The regions did not resubmit the projects but rather provided more detailed information.

Please let us know if you have any more questions. GDF

*Gary Frazer
Assistant Director -- Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-4646*

On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 4:37 PM, Rauch, Paul <paul_rauch@fws.gov> wrote:

Gary/Gina,
Steven Howke had some questions when he reviewed our November grants package. Could you look into to these and get back to him as soon as possible. Gary - I have placed a copy

of the spreadsheet on your chair. Specifically;

Line 18: cooperative endangered species fund project with California - column on flexibility answered no- letter already issued. Would like to know more about this process and why letter issued prior to DOI approval.

Line 22: Endangered species grants- land acquisition in Florida - How much land and who is the seller?

Lines 25-27 - Also ES grants - notes say they are all resubmissions. Why? What was the issue with the first submission?

Please respond directly back to Steven and Aurellia with a cc to me so I can track also.

Thanks

Paul

To: Todd Willens[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicek[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Benjamin Cassidy[benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov]; Cally Younger[cyounger@blm.gov]; Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Casey Stemler[casey_stemler@fws.gov]; Catherine Gulac[Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)]; Douglas Domenech[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Edward Keable[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Bockmier[john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; John Tanner[john_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Juliette Lillie[juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Kathleen Benedetto[kbenedetto@blm.gov]; Kerry Rae[kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]; Larrabee, Jason[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Lori Mashburn[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[Timothy_Williams@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Wynn[todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]

From: Rees, Gareth

Sent: 2018-01-04T17:19:32-05:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Weekly Report to the Secretary - January 4, 2018

Received: 2018-01-04T17:19:35-05:00

[Weekly Report to the Secretary 01%2F04%2F18.docx](#)

Happy New Year,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

Weekly Report to the Secretary 01/04/18

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

January 04, 2018

Office of the Solicitor

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Nothing significant to report.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:

Nothing significant to report.

OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:

Kane County, Utah v. United States (Fed. Cl.) – 2017 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Underpayments

On December, 20, Kane County, Utah filed a putative class action suit against the United States for amounts it alleges is owed under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act for fiscal year 2017, notwithstanding Congress failure to appropriate amounts necessary to make the full calculated payments. Per the complaint, the 2017 appropriation underfunded payments by \$1,337,584. This action follows Kane's success at the Claims Court for a similar action relating to PILT payments in fiscal years 2015 and 2016. In fiscal year 2017, Congress included a new provision directing proportional PILT payments in the event of less than full funding.

Association of O&C Counties v. Donald J. Trump (D.D.C.); American Forest Resource Council v. U.S. (D.D.C.); Murphy Company, et al. v. Trump (D. Or.) - Challenges to Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion

The AOCC and AFRC cases are stayed until January 15, and the Murphy Company case is stayed until January 31. The United States agreed not to seek an additional stay in the AFRC and AOCC cases and will likely file a joint status report on January 15, in both cases and seek to negotiate a briefing schedule with plaintiffs.

Citizens for Clean Energy v. DOI (D. Mont.) (consolidated with California v. Zinke (D. Mont.)) - Challenges to S.O. 3348 Ending the PEIS and the Coal Leasing Moratorium

On December 29, the Department filed a motion to reconsider the Court's November 21 Order, which granted in its entirety the Plaintiffs' motion to supplement the administrative record,

including with ten years of coal leasing environmental analyses. The Department's motion requests that the Court revise the Order by eliminating the requirement that these environmental analysis be included in the record.

Sierra Club v. Zinke (N.D. Cal.) & California v. BLM (N.D. Cal.) - Challenges to Waste Prevention Suspension Rule

On December 19, two separate complaints were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California challenging the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) recently published final rule to suspend the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule. The first was filed by the State of California and the State of New Mexico and the second was filed by 17 environmental groups. Both complaints were accompanied by a motion for preliminary injunction (PI). The Department's responses to the PI motions are due on Tuesday, January 16.

Wyoming v. Zinke (10th Cir.) - Challenge to BLM's 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule

On December 27, the Tenth Circuit denied petitioner-appellees' motions for rehearing and stayed issuance of the mandate until January 12. The court of appeals had previously ruled that the pending appeal was prudentially unripe and vacated the district court's opinion that had invalidated the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule. The Department of Justice will file a brief notice with the court of appeals that the BLM's final rule, which rescinded the 2015 rule, was published on December 29, 2017.

Farrell-Cooper Mining Co. (FCMC) v. OSMRE (IBLA) (Liberty 5); FCMC v. OSMRE (IBLA) (Liberty 6)

On January 2, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) granted the parties' motion to suspend consideration of both of these appeals until April 16, to facilitate the parties' settlement discussions. These appeals will automatically return to the IBLA's active docket on April 2018, unless, after having received from the parties a request to do so, the IBLA orders otherwise.

Morales, et al. v. United States (9th Cir.)

Plaintiffs, Steven Morales and Nicole Perry, representatives of the Estate of Raymond Perry, and Chopper II, LLC, filed this wrongful death and property damage action under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) alleging that the U.S. Geological Survey's failure to mark its cable across a canyon caused Mr. Perry, a helicopter pilot, to strike the cable, resulting in the death of Perry and three passengers, and damage to the helicopter. On January 6, 2017, the district court granted the United States' motion to dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to the discretionary function exception. Plaintiffs appealed and the parties briefed the case. The court recently set oral argument for March 13.

NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:

Use of Grant Instrument for Procurement

Amidst preparations to post notice of an opportunity to compete for a Native Language Immersion Grant to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) was advised that in the announcement they should provide a citation to legal authority authorizing BIE to use a grant instrument as a procurement method. BIE asked us how to respond. The grant program was authorized in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017*, wherein Congress appropriated \$2M

for a grant program to be administered by the BIE to provide grants to BIE-funded schools (both Tribally-Controlled and BIE-operated) to either create or expand Native language immersion programming. We advised that whereas Congress clearly intended to transfer funds to carryout a public purpose of support or stimulation without any expectation of substantial involvement by the Government, a grant is the proper legal instrument to carryout the intent of Congress. Hence, there is no need to justify the conduct of an acquisition through a grant instrument.

National Park Service's (NPS's) Term Sheet and Approval Request for a Patent Licensing Deal

Review and revise a proposed Licensing Term Sheet for a collaboration between the NPS Gulf Coast Network and In-Situ, Inc. The product to be manufactured and sold by In-Situ, Inc. is a government-owned invention that reduces the effects of biofouling and excess sediment on water quality monitoring devices. The Term Sheet was revised to include key sections on definitions relating to the sale and license terms, audit and reporting, best efforts, bankruptcy, and indemnity and insurance.

Alaskan Coastal Plan within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Division of Mineral Resources attorneys met December 28, with the Alaska Region and the Division of Parks and Wildlife to discuss Title II of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of December 22, 2017, (Tax Act), which directs the BLM to establish an oil and gas program on ANWR and to conduct at least two lease sales within 10 years. The Solicitor's Office is preparing a memo addressing various implementation issues and options.

Appeal Regarding Alaska's failure to nominate the Ch'u'itnu Historic District for listing in the National Register

The National Parks Branch is advising the Office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in responding to a 36 C.F.R. § 60.12 appeal regarding the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) failure to nominate the Ch'u'itnu Historic District, proposed by the Native Village of Tyonek as a traditional cultural property for listing in the National Register. The Keeper will notify the SHPO of the appeal and request the SHPO's position regarding the appeal. The Keeper's decision on the appeal is due February 9.

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee will be on leave January 11-12, 2018.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Nothing additional to report.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Greg Sheehan will conduct an All Employee meeting on DOI Priorities with FWS Northeast Regional Office staff in Hadley, Massachusetts on January 4 (day trip). January - 5 - 6, Greg will accompany David Bernhardt to the Dallas Safari Club Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

FWS is conducting community involvement activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) for a contaminated area on Crab Orchard NWR in Illinois, a former military ordnance and industrial area. In April 2017, FWS held an open house to share information on potential cleanup alternatives for tenants and farmers who use the refuge. On September 3, FWS published a legal notice in the local paper announcing the availability of the Administrative Record, and has developed a community involvement plan. On January 6, FWS will announce a public comment on the proposed cleanup alternatives and will host an open house and public meeting at the refuge on January 24 to provide information and receive input on the proposed cleanup. Public comments will be accepted through February 5.

On or around January 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of the draft revised stock assessment report for the northern sea otter stock in Washington State and open a 90-day public comment period. This action is not expected to be opposed. FWS will notify the state and outer coast tribes, and post the document on the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office website.

On January 9, FWS, NOAA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (the Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees) plan to release an injury determination report that concludes PCBs released by General Electric have caused repeated and prolonged exceedances of state and federal water quality standards and contaminated surface water resources of the Hudson River for decades. The report is the latest demonstration of the Trustees' measurement of natural resource injuries from General Electric's release of PCBs to the Hudson River from its manufacturing facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, New York. The Trustees are planning coordinated outreach through a joint news release and congressional notifications.

On January 11, FWS Southwest Region Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services, Ted Koch, will meet with the Catron County Commission at an executive session to discuss Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and the efforts to improve coordination and communication.

Hot Topics

On December 20, the New Mexico State Game Commission approved the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision, which FWS signed in November. The commission also approved permits for cross-fostering up to 12 Mexican wolf pups from the captive breeding program into New Mexico, which is important in the implementation of the recovery plan to improve the gene diversity of the wild population.

FWS and Texas Animal Health Commission and U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) jointly announced availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for public comment on cattle fever tick management on the Laguna Atascosa and Lower Rio Grande Valley NWRs in South Texas on December 20. The public comment period will close on January 20. Laguna Atascosa NWR and portions of the FWS Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR remain under quarantine at this time. FWS, in close coordination with USDA-APHIS, made a decision to move forward with evaluating chemically treating white-tailed deer and conducting an experimental cattle grazing program on the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laguna Atascosa NWRs. The USDA is the lead agency and FWS is a cooperating agency. There is significant media and congressional interest in efforts to combat fever tick.

National Park Service

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On January 10, Lena McDowell, NPS Deputy Director, Management and Administration, will be going to Capitol Hill to meet with minority and possibly majority staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to discuss the NPS workforce harassment findings and fee-free entrance days into national parks. The meeting was requested by Sen. Mazie Hirono's office (D-HI-02).

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In December, the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), in partnership with the Washington Support Office (WASO) Transportation Branch, provided preliminary diagnostic and operational data summaries to WASO, the Intermountain Regional Office, and Zion National Park (ZION) on the Electric Bus Pilot Program operated at ZION from July to September 2017. The park worked with the provider to operate an all-electric, zero emission bus at the park for three months from July to September, 2017. Data also included comparison results from operating three existing propane-powered buses during the same time period. A draft report is being prepared by NREL for further review and discussion no later than the end of January.

On December 19, the Legion Lake fire in Custer State Park, South Dakota, that had spread to the backcountry area within Wind Cave National Park and caused a temporary closure of the area on December 13, 2017, was 100% contained. Therefore, the backcountry trails and camping areas to the park have reopened to the public.

In late December, depending on Departmental clearance, Golden Gate National Recreation Area will complete the Record of Decision for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The selected alternative will rehabilitate historic structures for visitor use and ferry operations at Pier 31½ in San Francisco, supporting a commercial services concession that will begin in 2019. Final approval of a general agreement and associated draft leases for a long-term ferry embarkation site at Pier 31½ is expected in January.

After December, the NPS expects to release the final plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the presence of wolves at Isle Royale National Park. The publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NOA of this final plan/EIS in the Federal Register will initiate a 30-day wait period before the Regional Director of the Midwest Region will sign the Record of Decision. The NPS preferred alternative would introduce between 20-30 wolves to the island over a 3-year time period. A decision is needed because the potential absence of wolves raises concerns about possible effects to the current Isle Royale ecosystem, including effects to both the moose population and forest/vegetation communities. Over the past five years, the wolf population has declined steeply and at this time, natural recovery of the population is unlikely.

On or before January 5, the Blue Ridge Parkway anticipates signature of required right-of-way (ROW) and construction permits for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. The construction and ROW final permits were delivered to the Applicant for signature by NPS on January 2, 2018. The pipeline would traverse both the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved the pipeline project with final decisions by a number of other state and federal agencies still pending.

On January 5, at the request of former U.S. Congressman Henson Moore, Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser will host a kick-off fund-raising campaign event at a New Orleans hotel introducing the "Passage to Unity" project to raise money for a new memorial at Chalmette Battlefield, one of the six sites of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The project was previously conceived by the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission to pay tribute to the British troops who fought at the battle. The project is now being advanced by the Passage to Unity at Chalmette Battlefield Corporation, a philanthropic partner of the NPS. The park's acting superintendent has been invited to briefly provide public information about the park and "Passage to Unity" project.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in coordination with Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), is preparing a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study. The purpose of the Tier I study is to consider multiple corridors for providing additional traffic capacity and access across the Chesapeake Bay. The NPS has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in this project, and the FHWA and MDTA has invited the NPS to become a participating agency in the environmental review process and development of the Tier I EIS.

In January, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department of the Interior (DOI) has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000 years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether or not to submit the nomination to the World Heritage Committee.

During the week of January 1, the U.S. Civil Rights Trail organization will launch and start to promote 100 civil rights landmarks, to include NPS Southeast Regional sites, across 14 states. The organization is a collection of churches, courthouses, schools, museums and other landmarks primarily in the Southern states where activists challenged segregation in the 1950s and 1960s to advance social justice. The effort is organized by tourism directors of the 14 featured states with Travel South USA, the official travel/trade site of southern state tourism offices. The NPS sites to be featured include: the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, Freedom Riders National Monument, Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, and Tuskegee Army Airfield National Historic Site in Alabama; Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Georgia; and Reconstruction Era National Monument in South Carolina. The initiative also includes the home of Medgar Evers and sites in Mississippi related to the lynching of Emmett Till, which are Special Resource Study sites.

From January 1 to February 1, the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument will be closed to facilitate a comprehensive structural assessment of the facility. The complete closure of the house is due to the volume of items that will need to be moved to permit access to necessary locations, for measures to address lead paint remediation, and to identify structural data needed to develop proper plans for future architectural and engineering rehabilitation work.

In January, Arches National Park anticipates submitting a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) following the release of the Salt Wash Rehabilitation Project Environmental Assessment (EA) in mid-October 2017. The park is currently preparing the FONSI for Regional Director review. The proposed action will provide for a safer and better visitor experience and improve natural processes by reducing the flooding, sediment deposition, and closure of the Wolfe Ranch/Delicate Arch Viewpoint road, and improve the conveyance of water and sediment in three washes. The FONSI assesses impacts to hydrologic and geomorphologic processes, vegetation, visitor experience, and wilderness character and determines if there will be significant impacts to these resources from the proposed action. During the public comment period, the park received nine public comment letters calling on the NPS to consider additional alternatives and suggested mitigation measures to manage impacts to wetlands, native vegetation and wildlife. The comments are addressed in the Errata Sheets attached to the FONSI, and resulted in minor changes to the EA. Additionally, the park consulted affiliated Tribes, the public, potential interested parties, and the State Historic Preservation Office during the planning process.

In January or February, pending DOI approval, the NPS anticipates publishing an NOA in the Federal Register for the Draft Management Plan and Draft EIS for Saline Valley Warm Springs (plan/DEIS) in Death Valley National Park. The NOA will initiate a 60-day public comment period on the document during which public meetings will be held in the vicinity of the park. The plan/DEIS analyzes five alternatives for the management of the Saline Valley Warm Springs area, and is intended to provide a framework for natural and cultural resource management, administration and operations, and managing visitor access.

In early January, Phase 2 will begin on the waterline project to upgrade and replace the aging system in and around the National Mall and Memorial Parks. This phase is expected to take approximately one year. Work area will include West Potomac Park, the Washington Monument (WAMO) grounds, Lincoln Memorial, Ash Woods Road, the area between Constitution Gardens and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the recreation fields near the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. A majority of the work will be horizontal drilling, with pits every 500 feet to pull the line; however, there will be open trenching around WAMO.

In early January, Glacier National Park will issue a press release updating the public about the following two topics: (1) the park will announce that the Going-to-the-Sun Road Corridor Management Plan will be released as an Environmental Assessment in the fall, and (2) the park will announce a likely two-week construction related closure along the Going-to-the-Sun Road in mid-September due to routine pavement preservation.

From January 2 to 15, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department will accept applications for volunteers to assist with the reduction of the elk herd at Wind Cave National Park as part of an effort to address Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD, which has been found present in the herd. CWD is a contagious neurological disease which affects the brain of deer, moose and elk resulting in abnormal behavior, loss of bodily fluids, and death. There are currently 260 elk in the park and park officials would like to achieve a herd size closer to the low end of the population objective, which is 232 animals. Park staff also recently fitted 24 elk in the park with GPS radio collars to help monitor for CWD. Eight volunteers will be selected by lottery from the applicants and will assist for two weeks beginning on February 5. Volunteers will be required to demonstrate advanced firearms proficiency and physical fitness to participate.

On January 8, Springfield Armory National Historic Site will hold a ceremony to formally recognize the NPS ownership as sole custodian of the Colonel J.B. Benton Small Arms Collection (BSAC). Benton was the founder of the Springfield Armory in 1871, and subsequently became Commanding Officer. The NPS and the U.S. Army Center for Military History (CMH) have a long, intricate history related to the BSAC. The NPS has cared for these objects for more than four decades in a world-class curation storage facility in compliance with the latest DOI standards and this ownership status has been questioned periodically by the CMH. Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA-1) will attend the ceremony as well numerous members from the CMH.

On January 8, Devils Postpile National Monument will initiate a National Environmental Policy Act public scoping process to update the park's 2005 Fire Management Plan to better address

current ecological conditions at the park. A news release will be issued on January 4 announcing a January 17 public meeting. The comment period opens January 8..

On January 8, Olympic National Park will issue a news release initiating a National Environmental Policy Act public scoping process to update the park's 2005 Fire Management Plan. Public meetings are planned for late January or February.

On January 10, a public meeting will be held to begin the NPS development process of a foundation document to guide planning and management of Stonewall National Monument. The meeting will include a formal presentation on the foundation document process, an update on planning efforts to date, and an opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit comments. Anticipated meeting participants include members of the general public, neighbors, LGBTQ activists, local, state and federal elected officials and/or members of their staffs. A scoping period to offer the public an opportunity to provide input on contents for the foundation document will be open from January 11 through February 11.

On or about January 11, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and the Port of San Francisco will release the vision for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Plan. The partnership will be authorized by a General Agreement between the National Park Service and the Port, as well as a lease between the port and the NPS ferry concessioner. The selected alternative will rehabilitate historic structures for visitor use and ferry operations at Pier 31½ in San Francisco, supporting a commercial services concession that will begin in 2019. Final drafts of the General Agreement and Lease will be complete also in January, and will go through an approval process with the City of San Francisco following certification of the California state-level environmental compliance document to be signed in March. This will be subsequent to GGNRA completion of the Record of Decision for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The selection of the current concessionaire was somewhat controversial and the approval of the agreement by the city may draw press interest.

In the next few weeks, the city of Charleston, South Carolina, will release an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 30-day public comment for NPS approval of three replacement properties to satisfy the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act and pursuant to a court settlement. The EA has been reviewed by the Southeast Regional Office and WASO LWCF staff. Two of the three replacement properties are near the lost outdoor recreation space and will serve the same community. The city believes this is non-controversial since the Department of Justice approved the settlement. Following this period, if no significant comments are received, a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed by the Regional Director and these replacement outdoor recreation spaces would become subject to the provisions of the LWCF Act.

On January 12, the 14th annual reading of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech" will take place at the Lincoln Memorial, National Mall and Memorial Parks. Watkins Elementary in Northeast (Capitol Hill Group) will host the event and the speech will be read by 100 fifth graders in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Each student will read one line on the site where King stood during the August 28, 1963 March on Washington.

Through January 13, Everglades National Park is accepting written comments for the Old Tamiami Trail Modifications Environmental Assessment (EA). The park released the EA on December 14 for a 30-day public review. The EA evaluates options for modifying an original 5.7-mile segment of the trail located along the northern boundary of the park as proposed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2014 to facilitate hydrologic and ecologic restoration of the park.

On or after January 15, Mount Rainier National Park expects the Paradise Cellular Installation Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to be signed. The selected alternative would issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, and potentially AT&T, to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center attic. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. A news release will be issued.

On January 15, The MLK Memorial Foundation will hold a wreath laying ceremony in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. This is a permitted event coordinated by the Memorial Foundation. The park has requested a list from the foundation of DOI/NPS invitees to the event.

In mid- January 2018, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (CHOH) plans to announce a Finding of No Significant Impact for a new submerged Potomac River water supply intake, which will be operated by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). The project also involves constructing a boat ramp, a parking area, permanent water filtration plant (WFP) facilities in the park, and a permanent access road. In exchange for a perpetual easement for the existing and proposed intake facilities, a land exchange between the NPS and WSSC will occur prior to construction. WSSC does not plan to begin construction for two years.

On January 17, Haleakala National Park will open a public comment period for its draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding sunrise visitor management at the summit of Haleakala. Overcrowding at the four sunrise viewpoints in the past few years has adversely impacted the health and safety of employees and visitors, as well as natural and cultural resources. In December 2016, the park implemented an emergency pilot reservation system. The overall response from visitors and the local community to this temporary reservation system has been positive. Public comments will be accepted through February 20.

On January 17, a public hearing will be held by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) concerning Meridian Energy Group, Inc.'s proposal to locate a petroleum refinery approximately 2.5 miles outside Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Billings County, North Dakota. Meridian Energy has received a zoning change and conditional use permit from Billings County, a water appropriation permit from the State Engineer, and NDDOH has issued them a preliminary construction permit for the Davis Refinery. The NPS has worked closely with the NDDOH and Environmental Protection Agency during the air permitting process. The NPS Air Quality Division is undertaking its own impact modeling to inform any official comment. The public comment period to NDDOH on issuing the final permit to construct began December 8, 2017 and ends January 26, 2018.

On January 18, the Northeast Regional Office and Morristown National Historical Park staff plan to sign and release the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Morristown National Historical Park Vegetation and White-tailed Deer Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI will allow the park to manage invasive plants; deer browse, which are the leaves, twigs and buds of woody plants that deer consume; and possibly use canopy thinning to encourage forest regeneration. Responses to public comments on the EA will be included as an appendix to the FONSI. Exact dates for release will depend on final review process.

On January 24, the first in a series of public meetings to develop a management plan for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument will take place. The meeting will take place at Eastern Maine Community College in East Millinocket, ME. Park winter use will be the focus of the public meeting which will include an overview and welcome by the superintendent; a summary of potential winter uses by lead planner of the Musson Group, a planning consultancy specializing in land use and community planning, economic development, permitting and project management; and, breakout sessions to further discuss potential uses. The meeting will be announced early January via press release, www.nps.gov/KAWW, and e-newsletter.

On January 26, the draft air tour management agreement for Glen Canyon / Rainbow Bridge will close after a 45-day public review. The agreement and FAQs are available through the park's PEPC page. The park has sent letters to congressional offices and the air tour operators and has issued a press release. The NPS, the Federal Aviation Administration, and seven commercial air tour operators intend to sign the agreement, once complete, to manage air tours over Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Rainbow Bridge National Monument to ensure protection of resources and visitor use and enjoyment without compromising aviation safety.

On January 26, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be issuing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Columbia Gas Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project. The proposed project being analyzed includes building an 8-inch gas transmission pipeline that would, in part, cross under Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and the Potomac River near Hancock, Maryland. To streamline the review process, the NPS is participating in the EA as a Cooperating Agency. The park has received a draft for internal review. The pipeline has attracted much public attention, and the superintendent has received over 550 emails requesting the park deny any right-of-way permit requests for a gas line crossing. No decision will be made until the EA process is complete. The 90-day Federal Authorization Deadline is April 26.

In late January, the final rule to allow bicycle use on a portion of the East Shore Trail at Rocky Mountain National Park is expected to be published in the *Federal Register*. The East Shore Trail is an existing hiking and equestrian trail that runs north/south along the east shore of Shadow Mountain Lake near the town of Grand Lake, Colorado. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed in February, 2015, that approved bicycle use on a two-mile segment of the trail. Rerouting trails along the East Shore to safely accommodate bike use triggered the rulemaking process per the NPS Bicycle Rule policy. The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* in December 2015. Substantive comments received during the proposed rule public comment period were addressed.

On February 1, Joshua Tree National Park will be expanding its current online campground reservation system to include Jumbo Rocks and Cottonwood campgrounds. Currently the park offers approximately 200 sites for reservation, and the inclusion of Jumbo Rocks and Cottonwood campgrounds will double the number of reservable sites. Park management is moving towards expanding the number of reservable sites following an extensive public comment period and a series of public meetings on how better to serve the camping community at the park. Sites can be reserved at Recreation.gov; first come, first serve campers will still have access to four other campgrounds.

On February 1, Joshua Tree National Park will implement a pilot transportation program with a fleet of shuttle buses operating throughout the northern portion of the park during the peak season. The shuttle will be a free option for visitors, and will travel the 30 miles between Twentynine Palms, California and the village of Joshua Tree, providing access to all of the major campgrounds and hiking trails. After a two-year test period, the park will reevaluate the system to determine if it should be further expanded or made permanent.

On February 1 and 2, Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL-5) and possibly additional members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) are planning to visit coastal areas of Everglades National Park and sites in Northeastern and Central Florida Bay. Topics during the visit will include Hurricane Irma effects, and Everglades Restoration and Ecosystem Sustainability programs.

On February 7, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore will host a Quarter Launch & Coin Exchange at Mather Elementary School in Munising, Michigan, commemorating the release of the parks' quarter, the 41st coin to be released in the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarter Program. As a prelude to the event, the United States Mint will host a coin forum the evening before, February 6, at Munising Township Office in Wetmore, Michigan. The WASO Office of Communications is in contact with the United States Mint who will draft a press release for coordination by the WASO Solicitor's Office.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On January 4, the Office of Self Governance will be meeting with representatives of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians to discuss progress in updating the Single Entity Appraisals process for Tribes.

On January 4, the Office of Self Governance will be meeting with representatives of the Office of Indian Services to discuss the Federal Highway Administration program for Self-Governance Tribes.

On January 11, the Office of Self Governance will be participating in the monthly Department of the Interior Tribal Liaisons meeting.

On January 12, Dr. Sherry Allison, SIPI President, will serve as a keynote speaker at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA. Fielding Graduate University is an innovative global community dedicated to educating scholars, leaders, and practitioners in pursuit of a more just and sustainable world.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

On January 3, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Director Rice will be announcing James Schock as the new BIA Regional Director for the Southern Plains Region. Mr. Schock is currently serving as the Chief Financial Officer.

On January 8, Indian Affairs plans to announce by press release the approval of several Tribes' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act.

On January 11-12, the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children will be meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting on January 12 will include a public comment period via conference call from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm. The Advisory Board was established under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) to advise AS-IA on the needs of Indian children with disabilities. The Federal Register notice announcing the meeting was published on December 28, 2017.

On January 12, Dr. Sherry Allison, SIPI President, will serve as a keynote speaker at the Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Planning Secretary Zinke's Trip to the Pacific: Secretary Zinke is interested in touring Insular Areas in the Pacific under DOI's purview to include visits to the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the freely associated states of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The trip would include a visit to Pacific Command in Hawaii and a stop at Midway Island, managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to meetings with government officials on economic, health, and education issues, the Secretary would engage on the scheduled military build-up in Guam and CNMI, as well as plans for Palau. His primary interest is countering the growing Chinese influence in the area in support of the President's recently announced Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Preparing Secretary Zinke for Appropriations Hearings: OIA provided briefing topics in preparation for Secretary's Zinke's appearance before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, SENR and HNR respectively, in February and March 2018.

Policy Planning for Compacts of Free Association: DOI/OIA and State Department staffs of the Compact Trust Funds have begun monthly meetings to begin discussing and to flesh out policy recommendations for consideration in the transition to Compact Trust Fund distributions from direct sector grant funding under the Compact agreements. Direct funding under the Compacts expires in 2023. Current projections indicate that Trust Fund distributions will be highly unstable and significantly less than grant funding levels in 2023. It is anticipated that some recommended adjustments to the agreements may require congressional approval and/or bilateral country to country discussions.

USVI Health and Social Services Recovery Meeting OIA Director Nik Pula will be attending a FEMA IRMA/MARIA USVI Health and Social Services Recovery kickoff meeting in the Virgin Islands on January 9, 2018. This meeting is designed to convene senior leaders across health, human services and education within the territory and various federal departments and agencies to do the following:

1. Introduce the federal disaster recovery operation working in support of the USVI.
2. Highlight and validate the core short-term recovery focus areas and engagement.
3. Build consensus around the core recovery issues for the various social service sectors.
4. Identify coordination points and contacts for next steps in engagement process.

U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Courtesy Visit U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley will pay a courtesy visit on ASIN Domenech while in Washington, D.C. for meetings next week. He will provide information on current issues affecting the FSM with respect to Compact funding provided through Interior.

ASIN Travel to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) From January 14 to 18, 2018 ASIN Domenech and OIA Director Pula will travel to the RMI for discussions with President Hilda Heine, U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Karen Stewart, and others. They will also Stop on Kwajalein to visit the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site.

GAO Exit Conference on FSM and RMI On January 10, the GAO meets with OIA team to confirm critical facts and key information used to formulate their analyses and findings prior to finalizing and releasing GAO Report # 101901--Compacts of Free Association Grants and Trust Funds. Sector grant funding under the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia is set to expire in 2023 and be replaced with distributions from the Trust Funds.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

Press Releases and Other Actions

American Samoa Operations Funding DOI awarded \$2,317,190 of American Samoa Operations Grant for government operations and the LBJ Hospital. No press release issued.

Single Audits – DOI Audit Follow Up & Accountability - All FY2016 audits for 11 insular area governments have been received. OIA is currently following up for resolution of single audit issues/findings. The insular area audits are for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Government and the four state governments of the FSM: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

Ongoing Grant Funded Projects

- **Palau Tourism Master Plan** Providing ongoing funding for Palau Tourism Master Plan project through the newly developed Palau Bureau of Tourism. Palau is creating a brand new Tourism Policy Framework to include development of a regulatory framework. Palau has exceeded the 100,000 mark for visitors in the past 5 years, with Chinese visitors nearly quadrupling from 20,000 in 2014 to 80,000 in 2015.
- **Guam Department of Public Health Records Project** ongoing funding provided for a Public Health and Social Services Electronic Health Record Project. Health care data has since become more accessible to different medical professionals, thus improving patient care across Guam. Some work remains with respect to pharmaceutical recordkeeping.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

ASLM Joe Balash will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

ASLM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

ASLM Deputy Assistant Secretary Casey Hammond will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

In the next week, the BLM will publish Notices of Intent (NOI) regarding management plans in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The NOIs are the first steps to initiate new management plans in these monuments, consistent with the modifications enacted by the President on December 4, 2017.

In January, the BLM-UT Moab Field Office intends to issue a final decision approving upgrades to two primary access roads in the Canyon Rims Recreation Area (approximately 37.7 miles of designated routes for which BLM holds the rights-of-ways). The project is opposed by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance as a portion was within the 2016 boundary of Bears Ears National Monument. The project is outside of the modified boundary of the Indian Creek Unit of the Bears Ears National Monument.

In January, as required under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, BOEM plans to publish a final rule to adjust the offshore facility limit of liability for damages to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index since 2013. The rule will increase the limit of liability under OPA from \$133.65 million to \$137.56 million.

In January, BLM-UT plans to publish a *Notice of Intended Disposition* in four newspapers in the Four Corners region for two weeks in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The notices will communicate the BLM's intention to repatriate to the Hopi Tribe human remains and 4,121 associated funerary objects that were illegally excavated and/or disturbed in 2008 from Site 42SA9266 on BLM-administered lands in San Juan County, Utah. The site is located outside of any existing or previously-designated National Monument boundaries.

On January 8, BLM-CO will attend the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) Winter Meeting in Denver. The WSLCA is an organization representing 23 state land management agencies that together manage more than 440 million acres of surface and subsurface state lands throughout the central and western U.S. The BLM has an MOU with the WSLCA to advance the long-term goals of both the BLM and member states by resolving state-Federal land exchanges and other appropriate realty actions.

On January 9, Walter Cruickshank, Acting BOEM Director will participate in the Offshore Wind Finance Forum: Advancing Investment in U.S. Offshore Wind in New York, NY. The purpose of the Forum is to explore ways to improve the investment case of project financing U.S. offshore wind. Acting Director Cruickshank will speak at a breakfast briefing on the U.S. offshore wind market and regulations.

On January 9, BLM-CA Central Coast Field Office will meet with the California Resources Corporation, an independent company and producer of oil and natural gas in CA. The group will discuss the company's foreseeable oil and gas development plans in the Kettleman Hills area of Fresno County.

On January 10, BLM-NM Socorro Field Office Manager Mark Matthews and BLM SunZia Project Manager Adrian Garcia will attend the monthly SunZia Project-White Sands Missile Range Technical Committee meeting to coordinate activities conducted within White Sands Missile Range. These meetings are attended by the BLM as well as MMR Engineering, the Department of Defense, TransCo Energy, Southwestern Power, and Pattern Energy.

On January 11, the BLM-NM Farmington District Manager Victoria Barr, as well as several staff members from the Farmington Field Office, will meet with Four Corners Solar Center for a pre-application meeting for a proposed 345kV transmission line. This proposed line would transmit energy produced from proposed solar farms (all on private lands) that would feed into the Shiprock Substation.

On January 12 - Feb. 25, BLM-AK will seek public comments for the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Once the Federal Register Notice of Availability for the draft publishes, the BLM will hold public meetings and subsistence hearings during the comment period in Utqiagvik, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

On January 15, BOEM plans to publish the Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment as a final rule to adjust the level of civil monetary penalties for inflation, as required under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act.

On or about January 12, OSMRE Western Region plans to submit the Bridger Mine Mining Plan decision document to OSMRE Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Bridger Coal Company's Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 466 people. Approval of the mine plan will authorize removal of 4.5 million tons of recoverable Federal coal.

In mid-January A scoping report is set to be completed and released to the public outlining responses from the states and the public regarding potential management plan changes. In the coming weeks, the department will determine whether to proceed with plan amendments and initiate a public process on the 68 Sage Grouse Resources Management Plans.

In mid-January, BLM-AK Eastern Interior Field Office will meet with the tribal councils in Fort Yukon and Chalkyitsik to conduct government-to-government consultation regarding the BLM's implementation of the Draanjik RMP and associated transportation management plan, opportunities for tribal participation in implementation (possible job creation, data collection, etc.), and fish and wildlife issues. Meetings will include council members, support staff, and first and second chiefs and are open to all enrolled tribal members and others the tribe invites to attend. Meetings dates and locations are forthcoming.

In mid-January 2018, the BLM's Washington Office will issue an Instruction Memorandum (IM) titled "Interim Direction on Mitigation. This IM will implement E.O. 13783 and S.O. 3349 as they relate to mitigation. The IM will provide updated guidance on mitigation and will rescind the BLM's Mitigation Manual Section and Handbook issued on December 22, 2016.

In mid-January, the BLM-UT Monticello Field Office will initiate public scoping on a proposal from San Juan County to approve a designated motorized route accessing archaeological ruins southwest of Blanding. Specifically, the site lies between the easternmost boundary of the Shash Jaa Unit of the Bears Ears National Monument. An environmental assessment will be prepared, including appropriate consultation regarding the cultural resources.

In mid-January, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the King II Mine Mining Plan decision document to OSMRE Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. GCC Energy, LLC's King II Mine is an underground mine permitted under OSMRE's Federal Indian lands program in La Plata County, Colorado, that employs 88 people. Approval of the mine plan will authorize removal of 2.7 million tons of recoverable Federal coal.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On January 8-12, 2017, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Scott Cameron will be in Washington, DC, and participating in routine internal briefings.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

PMB is working with the Office of Congressional Liaison, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Office of Scheduling and Advance, and Office of Communications on an integrated rollout strategy and timeline for the FY 2018 reprogramming on the common regional boundaries and the January 10-11 Leadership Summit with DOI executives from around the country.

In an effort to standardize federal spending data, for the past two years, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA) have been collaborating to implement an authoritative standard for uniformly collecting, managing, and displaying Federal procurement, financial assistance, and personal property data through the use of Activity Address Codes (AACs). The AAC is a distinct six-position code consisting of a combination of alpha and numeric characters assigned to identify specific Federal agency offices, units, activities, or organizations. This standard hierarchy is being deployed in each of the Government-wide data collection and reporting systems used for financial assistance, contracts, and intergovernmental transactions to improve the accessibility and transparency of Federal spending data and comply with requirements of the Digital Accessibility and Transparency Act (DATA Act). Agencies will begin data validation in early January, and conduct beta testing of AACs in Government-wide systems over the next few months.

For internal controls and audit follow-up, the Department has an annual goal of closing 85 percent of corrective actions scheduled for closure in the current (FY) to address issues raised in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) engagements. As of December 26, 2017 (close of FY18 Quarter 1), the Department has closed ten percent of open audit recommendations scheduled for closure in FY 2018.

As of December 28, 2017 (close of FY18 Quarter 1), the Department has awarded 60.65% of its contract award dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal, which was negotiated with the Small Business Administration (SBA), is 51.1%. The Department awarded 30.75% of its contract award dollars to small disadvantaged businesses and 17.39% of its contract award dollars to women-owned small businesses, exceeding the statutory goal of 5% for each. The Department awarded 5.46% of its contract award dollars to historically underutilized business zone small businesses and 6.19% of its contract award dollars to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The statutory goal is 3% for each of these categories.

For Hurricane's Harvey and Irma, the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) is coordinating DOI efforts for the Natural and Cultural Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF). For Hurricane Harvey, the OEPC's Field Coordinator continues to develop the Recovery Support Strategy, with support from subject matter experts deployed by, the National Park Service. For

Hurricane Irma, two OEPC staff members continue to serve as part of FEMA's interagency recovery team at the Joint Field Office in Orlando. Current efforts are focused on developing the Recovery Support Strategy to identify actions and resources recover impacted natural and cultural resources. For Hurricane Maria, OEPC is coordinating DOI efforts related with Emergency Support Function #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials) and #11 (Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources), and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function. Missions Assignments have been received and DOI staff have been deployed to Puerto Rico to support the State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and to support and coordinate the long-term recovery of natural and cultural resources. NPS and USFWS staff are serving as Field Coordinators, leading the NCR RSF, in U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, respectively.

For the California Wildfires, the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) headquarters and San Francisco are coordinating with Emergency Support Function #11 and DOI bureaus to monitor the wildfires in California. The OEPC San Francisco Office is working closely with her partners to ensure natural and cultural resource concerns are addressed. Issues in regard to the Southern California fires have focused on California Condors and issues related to the Northern California fires have focused on support for tribes.

A new Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit is "Federal Information Security Intrusion Detection and Prevention (Job Code 102490)." Per a requirement of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (ACT), GAO will report on the effectiveness of the Federal government's approach to securing agency information systems. The Act requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), implement an intrusion assessment plan to identify and remove intruders in Federal agency information systems. GAO will review (1) steps DHS and OMB have taken to secure Federal agency information systems through the use of intrusion detection and prevention capabilities and (2) Federal agencies' implementation of intrusion detection and prevention capabilities.

An upcoming Government Accountability Office (GAO) Entrance Conference is "Promoting Effective Asset Management (Job Code 102243)" on January 16, 2018 with the Office of Acquisition and Property Management and the National Park Service. In response to a request from the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senator Thomas Carper, GAO plans to review (1) how select Federal agencies are conducting real property asset management and what lessons can be learned from agencies implementing ISO 55000 standards and (2) opportunities to improve Federal agencies' real property asset management.

A recent draft Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit report is "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the Government of Guam, Department of Agriculture, Report No. 2017-EXT-006." The OIG audited costs claimed by the Government of Guam's Department of Agriculture under grants awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS provided the grants to Guam through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. The audit included claims totaling \$4.4 million on 31 grants that were open during the fiscal years that ended September 30, 2015, and September 30, 2016. The OIG

found that the Government of Guam should (1) establish sufficient internal controls over employee time reports; (2) submit Federal Financial Reports in a timely manner; (3) limit the use of grant-funded vehicles to official business; and (4) maintain complete property records for assets acquired with grant funds or hunting and fishing license revenues. The OIG also determined the Guam legislation could divert control of Program funds to the chief technology officer and identified \$139,764 in prior year expenditures for building upgrades that no longer benefit the fish and wildlife program. The OIG issued seven recommendations to the Government of Guam to address these findings.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

The week of January 8, Deputy Assistant Secretary Andrea Travnicek will be in Washington, DC, attending a number of various internal meetings and briefings.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

California Wildfire Response Activities

In response to the ongoing California wildfires, the USGS continues collecting and distributing imagery at the request of State and Federal partners. The USGS also continues partnering with FEMA, State, and local partners to develop increased monitoring for potential debris flows following wildfires that occurred earlier this year in Northern California and Orange County. USGS scientists have provided some media interviews regarding the increased risks of erosion, debris flows, and other hazards to local communities impacted by wildfires.

The Bureau of Reclamation deployed staff to Northern California to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through Emergency Support Function 3 of the Stafford Act. Reclamation will provide staffing for QC/QA missions for debris removal. Staff will be deployed for 29 days.

Additional Announcements and Actions

The National Academy of Sciences is planning to roll out the 2017-2027 Decadal Survey for Earth Science and Applications from Space, on Friday, January 5, 2018. This report is an update to the 2007-2017 Decadal Survey, which was commissioned by NASA, NOAA, and the USGS to deliver consensus recommendations for space-based and ancillary observations of the Earth and its systems. A link to the 2007-2017 report may be found at:

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DEPS/esas2017/DEPS_169443

As directed by Secretarial Order (SO) 3359, “Critical Mineral Independence and Security” issued on December 20, 2017, implementing Executive Order (EO) “A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals,” the USGS is preparing a proposed list of minerals defined as critical minerals. This list, due within 30 days, will include a rationale for each mineral on the list, and will draw on multiple analyses, including USGS Professional Paper 1802 and the screening tool developed by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Critical and Strategic Mineral Supply Chains (CSMSC), which the USGS co-chairs. In accordance with the SO, the USGS will coordinate the draft list with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). On January 11, the USGS will also meet with representatives from the NSTC/CSMSC to facilitate interagency coordination as described in the EO. Following coordination with the BLM and the NSTC, the USGS will provide the list to the Secretary through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science (ASWS), Exercising the Authority of the ASWS.

On January 8, oral arguments in the *Texas v. New Mexico* case over Rio Grande water have been scheduled before the U.S. Supreme Court. Although the litigation was filed by Texas against New Mexico, the United States was allowed to intervene as it involves Reclamation's Rio Grande Project and the associated water.

On Jan. 12, Reclamation is scheduled to make the Pojoaque Basin Water Supply Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) available to the public via publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The package is set to be e-filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on that same day. The FEIS has been surnamed by the Commissioner's staff and is now being reviewed by the Department's Indian Water Rights Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Solicitor's Office.

Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) requested Reclamation be the owner's representative during efforts to rehabilitate the spillway at Guajataca Dam. This would include reviewing final designs for permanent repairs that the U.S. Corps of Engineers will be preparing once the temporary repairs are constructed. The Bureau of Reclamation intends to work directly with the U.S. Corps of Engineers as a reviewer of their designs for the permanent repairs. Reclamation will also likely be involved with the risk analysis of the entire project.

30-60 DAY LOOK-AHEAD

Office of the Solicitor

SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION DEADLINES FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS SEPARATELY REPORTED

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Nothing additional to add

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

On January 17-18, FWS plans a meeting with representatives from the five range state fish and game agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other partners to discuss coordination on lesser prairie-chicken issues. The meeting is in Arcadia, Oklahoma, and is invitation-only.

On or around January 26, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice announcing the availability of comprehensively revised boundaries for the first batch of Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) units included in the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project, affecting 112 existing and 36 proposed new units in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Jersey. The notice will announce a 120-day public comment period and also advise of upcoming public meetings to be held via webcast. Landowners, state and local officials (and their representatives in Congress) will likely support the removal of certain areas from the CBRS and similarly oppose the addition of such areas to the CBRS. Taxpayer groups, recreational interest groups and conservation groups will likely support the additions to the CBRS. Outreach will include a news release and FAQs, as well as stakeholder and congressional outreach.

FWS Southwest Region is proactively reaching out to state agencies to discuss Secretarial Order 3356, and seek additional opportunities to support and expand hunting and fishing on refuges in the Southwest. Currently the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has been the most responsive to outreach. On November 9, FWS leadership met with ODWC to discuss several potential hunting and fishing opportunities that could occur on Refuges in Oklahoma. A follow up meeting with ODWC is planned in January. FWS will continue to reach out to Texas, Arizona and New Mexico as well as Oklahoma to explore more opportunities.

FWS and partners will conduct the annual Mexican wolf population survey and capture, weather conditions permitting from January 22 through February 2. The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is a multi-agency cooperative effort among FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, as well as in consultation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Survey flights will occur on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Apache and Gila National Forests in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico, and possibly on some areas immediately outside the forests. The count is not open to the public. Limited media opportunities may be arranged, when possible.

FWS has completed a Draft Recovery Plan for the Southern California Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog. The recovery plan is expected to be announced for public comment and review at the end of January and is designed to help southern populations of this species in three Recovery Units through a set of recovery strategies with associated objectives and measurable criteria. The Recovery Units include San Bernardino Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains. The draft plan includes input from partners including the San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service. This is not controversial. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a press release to media.

In January and February, several border projects involving FWS are anticipated to begin. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will need access to water from a FWS-owned well on Buenos Aires NWR in Arizona for a road repair project. The Border Patrol & Air and Marine Program Management Office (BPAM PMO) plans a road construction project for a 66-mile portion of the Presumido Canyon Road through the Baboquivari Mountains in Arizona. CBP will update existing communications and surveillance towers on and adjacent to the Buenos Aires NWR.

FWS and the Marine National Monuments office have completed a public scoping process to evaluate ways to protect seabirds from predation by invasive house mice at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial, located in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Midway is the largest Laysan albatross colony in the world and more than 3 million birds from 29 species nest on Midway's three islands. All of them are potentially vulnerable to mouse predation. The mice have been documented eating seabirds while they are nesting, resulting in injury and death. Due to their extreme dedication to raising their young, the birds won't leave the nest if attacked. FWS is preparing a draft environmental assessment that will evaluate alternatives to protect seabirds from mouse predation. The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) should be ready for public comment in mid-February. Outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, when the draft EA is published, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach.

In February, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice seeking public review and comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the potential effects of issuing a proposed Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for construction and development activities in Thurston County, Washington. UPC, LLC developed a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and applied for a 15-year ITP. The project development site is 127 acres, and the conservation site is 64 acres. Species covered in the HCP include the threatened Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher and the threatened Oregon spotted frog. This is not controversial. This HCP is a single-site developer and independent from the HCP that FWS briefed ASFWP on on November 17. This applicant would like to move forward with development in advance of the completion of the Thurston County HCP.

Endangered Species Act Listing/Delisting Actions

Pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* the final delisting determination for Eureka Valley evening-primrose and downlisting, to threatened from endangered, of the Eureka dune grass. These are two plant species that occur in Death Valley National Park, California. The primary partner and stakeholder is the National Park Service who supports the actions. Some environmental groups opposed delisting the two species. However, in response to new information, we are no longer delisting Eureka dunegrass and are instead reclassifying it to a threatened species which may reduce the level of concern among the interested parties. Planned outreach will include a news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress.

On or around January 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final rule to remove the eastern puma (cougar) (historically known to exist in southeastern Ontario, southern Quebec, and New Brunswick in Canada, and a region bounded from Maine to Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and South Carolina in the eastern United States) from the list of endangered and threatened species due to extinction. Although FWS does not anticipate major public resistance to the final rule, opposition to the conclusion of extinction may be expressed by advocates for puma and large predator conservation. There may be some concern due to “puma” sightings reported by the public. The best available information indicates that these are cases of mistaken identity and escaped captive animals, and, rarely, dispersers from western puma populations. This rule will also acknowledge the current state of the North American puma taxonomy. Interested parties include the states within the eastern United States, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and the Cougar Network. A national news bulletin and congressional emails are planned.

On or around January 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to remove the Monito gecko, a reptile in Puerto Rico, from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. It is protected in a natural reserve managed by the Puerto Rico Department of Environmental and Natural Resources that has no public access. As a result, species’ protections will remain in place after delisting. This action is a conservation success story and is not expected to be opposed. The primary stakeholder is the territory of Puerto Rico. Planned outreach will include a news release and web postings.

On or around January 12, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed listing determination and proposed critical habitat designation for the Island marble butterfly, found in Washington. The proposed critical habitat designation includes approximately 812 acres. This action is not expected to be opposed and media coverage is expected to be neutral. Interested stakeholders include Xerces (the petitioner), federal partners including National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, and state partners including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Natural Resources, San Juan County Land Bank, the San Juan Preservation Trust and local landowners. A news release to all interested parties and the media is planned.

On or around January 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a revised proposed listing determination for the Louisiana pinesnake to include a species-specific 4(d) rule. This snake is found in Louisiana and Texas. The 4(d) rule will allow some routine forest management activities to proceed without need for permitting. Interested stakeholders include the forestry

industry, state wildlife agencies, and Center for Biological Diversity. This action is not expected to be opposed and media coverage is expected to be neutral. Planned outreach includes a news release to all interested parties and the media. FWS would like to finalize the 4(d) rule with the final listing rule, which is required by settlement agreement to publish by April 4; therefore FWS plans to submit the proposed 4(d) rule to the *Federal Register* by January 15.

On or around January 17, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final downlisting of the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened. This plant species has shown significant recovery due in part to collaborative conservation efforts with partners. Supporters of this action include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The Nature Conservancy. FWS has gained positive coverage on downlisting proposals, and anticipates more interest when this final determination is announced. Outreach planned includes a news release and social media postings.

On or around January 19, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a taxonomic change for the orangutan. The original listed entity included all orangutans in the genus *Pongo*. However, the orangutan has recently been reclassified as belonging to two distinct species: *P. pygmaeus* and *P. abelii*. Therefore, we are revising the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to reflect the current scientifically accepted taxonomy and nomenclature of the orangutan. This change does not alter regulatory protections afforded to the orangutan and is not expected to be opposed. Since this is a technical correction, minimal outreach is planned.

On or around January 24, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan for the black-capped vireo. While this action is not expected to be controversial, stakeholders who oppose the delisting of the species may express use this notice to express their concerns about the delisting. Stakeholders include the petitioners, Pacific Legal Foundation, Jim Chilton, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, New Mexico Federal Lands Council, and Texas Farm Bureau, and the Office of Travis Co. Judge and Big Bend National Park. Planned outreach will include notifications to local stakeholders, a news release to local media and social media posts.

On or around February 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an amendment to the current listing of the southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou (endangered) to include the entire Southern Mountain Caribou population as a distinct population segment (DPS). The revised DPS (17 subpopulations; 15 extant, 2 extirpated) includes the currently listed southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou, which is a transboundary population between British Columbia, Canada and northern Idaho and northeastern Washington. The critical habitat designation will remain unchanged. Non-governmental organizations including the International Fund for Wildlife, Kettle Range Conservation Group, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Idaho Conservation League, and the State of Idaho may be opposed to the DPS listing. The Pacific Legal Foundation (representing Bonner County) is likely to challenge the determination. FWS received a notice of intent to sue from the Pacific Legal Foundation on behalf of Bonner County in June 2017 because FWS has not met the statutory deadline for finalizing this rule (a proposed

rule was published in 2014). Planned outreach includes a news release, social media, emails and phone calls to Congressional offices and stakeholders.

On or around February 2, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the Texas hornshell, a mussel that occurs in New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. The states of New Mexico and Texas have not overtly opposed listing the hornshell, and FWS has worked with oil and gas companies extensively on a Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Black and Delaware Rivers, the only portion of the range of Texas hornshell where oil and gas production is occurring. FWS anticipates significant participation in these agreements which will provide regulatory certainty for these companies. Stakeholders include the Center for Biological Diversity, the States of Texas and New Mexico, the Bureau of Land Management, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and local landowners. Planned outreach will include notifications to stakeholders and relevant members of Congress and a news release to local media. FWS is required by settlement agreement to publish the final determination in the *Federal Register* by February 10; therefore, FWS plans to submit it by February 2.

On or around February 2, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to downlist the Hawaiian goose (nene) from endangered to threatened. FWS will also propose to establish special regulations for the conservation of the species under section 4(d) of the ESA to allow for flexibility in managing lands. Landowners of resort, golf course, agricultural, residential, and recreational properties are likely to support the reclassification and associated 4(d) rule while conservation groups may be opposed. Interested stakeholders include the State of Hawaii, federal agencies, conservation and bird groups, various private landowners, and the public. Outreach includes a news release, social media, emails and phone calls to Congressional offices and stakeholders.

On or around February 16, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final rule to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress.

On or around February 16, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a rule removing the textual descriptions of the critical habitat boundaries from certain wildlife entries (50 CFR 17.95) that have maps sufficient to stand as the official delineation of the critical habitat designation. This rule does not increase, decrease, or in any other way change the critical habitat designations from which we are removing the textual descriptions of boundaries. This action will save taxpayer resources. FWS is taking this action in accordance with the May 1, 2012, revision of the regulations related to publishing textual descriptions of critical habitat boundaries. No outreach is planned.

On or around February 20, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a news release, and an if-asked Q&A. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado and the Bureau of Land Management.

On or around February 23, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a minor map correction in the final rule designating critical habitat for the two butterflies. One map incorrectly labeled Poweshiek skipperling critical habitat as Dakota skipper critical habitat in Minnesota. FWS does not expect any opposition to this. No outreach is needed for this simple correction notice.

On or around February 28, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus from endangered to threatened. When first listed, only one population of 200 plants was known. The discovery of additional populations, together with efforts to conserve the plant and its habitat, indicate the cactus is no longer at risk of extinction. Today, there are 3,300 individual cacti in 11 known populations within its southern New Mexico range. Additionally, the permitting of captive propagation and sale of the plant has relieved much of the threat from collection of the species in the wild. This downlisting is not expected to be controversial. There will be minimal outreach as it was previously announced.

In the coming weeks, FWS will be announcing the completion of a scientific review of the Canada lynx in the contiguous United States. The review concludes that the Canada lynx may no longer warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and should be considered for delisting due to recovery. This recommendation is the result of an extensive review of the best available scientific information and almost 20 years of working in partnership with state, federal, tribal, industry and other land managers on the conservation of this species. The recommendation was informed by a recently completed, peer-reviewed Species Status Assessment for the lynx, which compiled and evaluated the best available scientific information on the historical, current and possible future conditions for the lynx. Over a two-year process, the Service worked closely with federal, state, and academic subject matter experts to evaluate relevant scientific information on snowshoe hare population dynamics, climate change, forest ecology and other issues. Given the recommendation that the species may be recovered, the Service will not at this time be completing a recovery plan for the Canada lynx and will be working with DOJ to inform the litigants in the lynx litigation.

National Wildlife Refuge Actions

In January, FWS will award nearly \$19 million in grants to coastal states to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and their fish and wildlife habitat. Each year, the Service supports coastal wetland conservation through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The grant funds are derived from excise taxes on fishing tackle and motorboat and small engine fuels. The grants will support 22 projects in 13 coastal states to protect, restore or enhance more than 30,000 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent upland habitats, including 287 miles of shoreline. Over \$21 million in additional matching funds will be provided by partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups. Conservation of this habitat will help recover coastal-dependent federal trust species, enhance flood protection and water quality, provide economic benefits to coastal communities and increase recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers. The grant recipients (states) have not yet been informed that they will be receiving funds. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a news release.

Bosque del Apache and Valle de Oro NWRs along with other federal and non-federal partners were recently awarded a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for restoration and enhancement of nearly 1,100 acres in the Middle Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico. NAWCA grants increase bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, family farming, and cattle ranching. In recognition of this grant, Ducks Unlimited is arranging for a field visit to Bosque del Apache NWR and has invited Senator Udall (D-NM) and Representative Pearce (R-NM) to attend. The field visit is tentatively set for January 15, 2018.

Migratory Bird Management Actions

In January, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the proposed 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a news release.

In January, FWS plans to publish a final rule removing regulations setting forth the provisions for two depredation orders for double-crested cormorants. FWS had used these standing orders to allow for lethal control of cormorants where they impact aquaculture and public resources; however, on May 25, 2016, the District Court for the District of Columbia ordered that both the Aquaculture Depredation Order and the Public Resources Depredation Order be vacated until FWS performs a new and legally adequate environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement for national cormorant management orders in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This final rule administratively implements the court's decision. While the depredation orders no longer exist, on November 15, 2017, FWS provided some measure of relief to aquaculture facilities. It issued a final EA under NEPA, which allows aquaculture facility managers and property owners across 37 central and eastern states and the District of Columbia to apply for individual permits for lethal take of cormorants where they are impacting resources. This latest action is not controversial. If-asked talking points will be planned for outreach.

In January, FWS will publish a final rule in the *Federal Register* on special methods of hunting migratory game birds by tribal members on ceded lands in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota for the 2017-18 season. This rule prescribes special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain tribes on Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands and ceded lands. This rule responds to tribal requests for FWS recognition of their authority to regulate hunting under established guidelines. This rule allows the establishment of season bag limits and, thus, harvest at levels compatible with populations and habitat conditions. This new final rule replaces the August 31, 2017, interim final rule. Outreach will include talking points, emails and phone calls to tribes, states, Congressional offices and stakeholders.

In January FWS, will publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* for migratory bird subsistence harvest regulations in Alaska for the 2018 season. These regulations allow for the

continuation of customary and traditional subsistence uses of migratory birds in Alaska and prescribe regional information on when and where the harvesting of birds may occur. These regulations were developed under a co-management process involving FWS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Native representatives. The rulemaking is necessary because the regulations governing the subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska are subject to annual review. This rulemaking proposes region-specific regulations that go into effect on April 2, 2018. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a news release.

In January, FWS will release a draft environmental assessment in response to a request by Ocotillo Express LLC for a five-year programmatic take permit for golden eagles at its Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility in Imperial County, California. Golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Ocotillo is requesting a permit to cover unintentional of eagles from their ongoing activities. With their permit application, Ocotillo has submitted an eagle conservation plan that proposes proactive conservation measures to minimize impacts to golden eagles in the region to offset unavoidable harm. Outreach is planned in the form of a news release. This is not controversial.

National Park Service

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will be the subject of an eight-page spread in the January/February issue of Westways Magazine, the official publication of the Southern California Automobile Association of America. The article is timed to coincide with the park's 40th anniversary.

On February 19, President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter will speak at the Plains High School in Plains, Georgia, a part of Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, during the annual Presidents Day celebration. The Congressional delegation, state and local officials will be invited to attend.

The deadline to submit proposals for the 250th non-profit has been extended until February 28. A press release regarding this extension was sent by the team on December 21, 2017.

In February, Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park.

In February, Olympic National Park anticipates initiating a two-week public scoping period for the Olympic Hot Springs Road Environmental Assessment. A news release will be issued. No public meetings are planned.

In March, the nonprofit Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue will begin rounding up and removing feral burros from Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve. The organization anticipates removing up to 2,500 burros over the next 5 years to test burros for disease and domesticate the animals for adoption. Burros that cannot be tamed will be kept in sanctuaries by

the organization. Compliance for burro removal was conducted as part of both parks' 2002 General Management Plans. This is anticipated to generate public interest and has already triggered a FOIA request.

Through March, the NPS will conduct annual deer management actions at Catoctin Mountain Park, Antietam National Battlefield, Monocacy National Battlefield, and Rock Creek Park. This will be Catoctin's ninth season of deer management operations, Rock Creek Park's fifth season, and the second season for Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields. Park staff members are conducted deer population density surveys in October and November 2017 to determine the number of animals to remove, as determined through their deer management plans. Sharpshooters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will remove deer from closed park areas during the daytime in some parks and from park roads after dusk in all parks. Venison will be donated to local food banks

Early this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is expected to begin conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Morehead City Port channel project, located next to Cape Lookout National Seashore in Carteret County, North Carolina. Recently, the county and Rep. Walter Jones Jr. (R-NC-3) formally requested that the Corps prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) before moving ahead with the project. They expressed concerns that the Corps' alternatives will have negative impacts to nearby eastern Bogue Banks that were not evaluated, and that the draft EA would not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The county believes that the Corps should include the installation of a terminal groin (rock jetty) on the western tip of Shackleford Banks, an island within park boundaries that is designated as proposed wilderness.

In the spring, Mojave National Preserve expects to begin the public comment period on a Management Plan for Developed Water Sources and Environmental Assessment (PDWS/EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy and water management techniques to ensure the preservation of wildlife, historic, wilderness, and recreation values in the management of developed and undeveloped water resources in the park (wildlife guzzlers and developed springs). The process is being closely watched by local hunting and conservation groups concerned about how the park will manage wildlife guzzlers, which are viewed by some as necessary for maintaining a healthy bighorn sheep population.

This summer, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) estimates the release of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline, with a prior review by cooperating agencies expected to begin in February. The proposed action remains outside of Denali National Park and Preserve (DENA), and a right-of-way application has not been submitted to the NPS. The applicant considers the route through DENA to be infeasible because of the procedural requirements of Title XI in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. However, proposed legislative changes to preclude the procedural requirements of Title XI are pending in Congress. The applicant could change their proposed route because of changes in legislation or with the Final Supplemental EIS. The Corps could direct the applicant to the route through DENA as the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) because of fewer impacts to wetlands. If the route would encumber DENA lands, the applicant would submit a right-of-way application to the NPS.

Heads-up/reminders:

In 1976, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance was provided for the acquisition of approximately 1.26 acres of lakefront property and site development at Marion Beggs Memorial Park (Beggs Park) located along the shore of Lake Champlain in the Town of Essex, New York. On May 30, 2017, New York State contacted the NPS with a proposal by the Town of Essex to upgrade and expand the water pumping station; and add a public restroom, water fountain, and a rooftop viewing platform to Beggs Park. The NPS determined that the proposal would trigger a conversation because an upgraded facility would expand into the surrounding LWCF protected parkland, which is a non-public outdoor recreation area. On October 25, Rep. Elise Stefanik's (R-NY-21) district office in Plattsburgh, NY, contacted the Northeast Regional Office (NER) on behalf of the Town of Essex by letter outlining the project and requesting an appeal of NPS' findings on the matter. On November 8, representatives from the Town of Essex, New York State, and NPS staff participated in a follow-up discussion about the proposal. After discussing the project and the LWCF compliance finding, the Town of Essex indicated that they would like to bring their issue to the attention of the NER regional director in hopes of an appeal. The regional director responded to the letter indicating she did not have the authority to alter the finding, and provided clarification on the decision and process. The matter was also raised to the NPS Associate Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement, who manages the LWCF program, and has offered to have a call with the interested parties if requested. (Contacted Cinda/Susan that entry needs to be narrowed down and clarified. Waiting for response).

CBS News will be airing a segment (date to be determined) about uranium mining at Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA). The report will include information about the ongoing cleanup at the Orphan Mine Site on the South Rim of GRCA. Access to the mine is restricted by two protective fences and a locked gate to protect park visitors from any potential exposure to radiation and other mining-related contaminants. The NPS is the lead agency undertaking response actions at the Orphan Mine Site, and the Contaminated Sites Program, which protects human health and the environment by managing the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater, has been closely involved with the project since 2000.

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education

January 13 is the deadline for comments on BIE's Strategic Plan.

On January 16, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs (PDAS-IA) Tahsuda will lead the first Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Sacramento, California.

January 16-19, BIE will be hosting a Strategic Plan planning session and retreat at the Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

On January 18, PDAS-IA will lead the second Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

January 23-24, the Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) January quarterly meeting will take place in Washington, DC. Representatives of the Office of the Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs are invited to attend on January 24.

On January 23, PDAS-IA will lead the third Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

On January 25, PDAS-IA will lead the fourth Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Portland, Oregon, following the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest conference.

January 29 is the deadline for nominations of members to serve on the BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children. There are eight positions available. The Federal Register notice soliciting nominations was published on December 28, 2017.

February 12-15, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will hold its Executive Council Winter Session at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. It is expected that representatives of the Department will be asked to participate.

On February 20, PDAS-IA will lead the fifth Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Phoenix, Arizona.

On February 22, PDAS-IA will lead the sixth (and last scheduled) Tribal consultation session on potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151 in Miami, Florida.

February 26 - March 1, the IA Safety Manager/Division Chief will travel to Washington, DC, to attend the quarterly DOI, Occupational Safety and Health Council Meeting at the USGS Headquarters Office in Reston, Virginia.

March 21-22, the Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) will meet at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington DC.

Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues

DOI's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) has announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking at the top 15 BIA/BIE/OJS drinking water facilities that have had past Federal law non-compliance issues or currently are in Federal non-compliance. The EPA has set a priority review/audit of the top seven BIA/BIE drinking water systems that are in Federal non-compliance: four are in Washington State, two in New Mexico, and one in Utah. The other eight, which have previous drinking water violations, include: one in New Mexico, one in Kansas, two in South Dakota, one in Arizona, one in Oregon, one in Montana, and one in Mississippi.

On December 21, The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) completed the first phase of its project supporting the BIA Concho Agency's November 30 lease sale. The IESC performed encoding in the Trust Asset Accounting and Management System (TAAMS) for the 364

advertised tracts, invoice generation for the 162 successfully bid upon tracts, and associated tasks.

Regulations Ready for OS Review

None pending.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs

Travel to the USVI and Puerto Rico (PR) From January 22-26, 2018, ASIN Domenech will travel to the VI and PR for Hurricane Recovery Support meetings. He will also attend Conservation Trust meetings in PR.

Coral Reef Task Force Meetings - The winter meetings of the Coral Reef Task Force will be held from February 18 – 23, 2018 in Washington, D.C. DOI and Commerce (NOAA) co-host.

Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) The IGIA will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018. Co-chaired by the Secretary and the White House Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Justin Clark, this is the annual convening of high-level federal officials discussing issues of concern to the U.S. territories. It is also attended by the Governors and the Delegates.

Spring 2018 – Hearing on Pacific Veterans Healthcare Potential Congressional hearing on healthcare for veterans from the U.S. Insular Areas.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

On January 16, BSEE Director Angelle is scheduled to meet with representatives from the Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA) at MIB in Washington, DC to receive a briefing on the RPSEA Technology Roadmap that outlines technological challenges facing the offshore oil and gas industry and the solutions that can address those challenges.

On January 17, the U.S. Air Force will begin a series of public hearings for the Withdrawal Extension and Proposed Withdrawal Expansion of the Nevada Test and Training Range. Additional meetings will be held on January 18, 23, 24 and 25. The BLM is not the lead agency for this project but will be attending the meetings as a cooperator.

On January 18, BSEE Director Angelle will attend a meeting of the Committee on Marine Transportation Systems (CMTS) at the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

On January 18, BLM-CA Bakersfield staff will meet with the Los Padres National Forest and Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge to discuss the Plains All American Pipeline replacement and ROW renewal, including which agency will be the lead for conducting the NEPA analysis. The pipeline replacement is necessitated by a 2015 oil spill which deposited 142,800 gallons, or 3,400 barrels, of crude oil onto Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara. The pipeline, which has since been out of service, crosses multiple jurisdictions (Federal, state and county) and will be

removed and replaced within the same footprint. Santa Barbara County will be the California Environmental Quality Act lead for this project. The BLM anticipates high public interest and media attention on this issue.

On January 19, BSEE Director Angelle and officials from the DOI Office of the Solicitor will meet with attorneys for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline at MIB in Washington, DC.

On January 21, BOEM plans to publish a Proposed Sale Notice proposing a multi-factor auction for two unleased areas within the Massachusetts Wind Energy Area.

On January 22, the BLM MT/DKs expects to transfer 2,126.11 acres of land in Chouteau, Hill, and Custer counties to the State of Montana to satisfy \$1.8 million of Montana's \$4.1 million entitlement under in lieu selection provisions of the Enabling Act of 1889. Management of these lands by the State will generate revenue for the school trust. Additional lands selected by the State in the Miles City Field Office area will be reviewed in 2018 so that the remaining \$2.3 million entitlement can be satisfied in full.

January 22 - 23, ASLM Deputy Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor, Acting BOEM Director Walter Cruickshank, and other representatives of BOEM are scheduled to attend a meeting in Sacramento with DoD and offshore wind developers to discuss wind exclusion areas proposed by DoD off the State's Central Coast.

On January 23, BSEE Director Angelle is scheduled to speak at a meeting of the Texas Oil and Gas Association in New Orleans, LA.

On January 24, pending final approval, BOEM plans to host a webinar to solicit input from the public on draft guidance for the submission of Construction and Operations Plans that contain a design envelope, which would allow lessees the flexibility to defer final design decisions in order to take advantage of rapid technological advances.

On January 24, the BLM-NV Southern Nevada District Office proposes to sell 40 parcels totaling 754.88 acres of public land in Clark County. The competitive sale would be by sealed and oral bidding in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).

From January 28 through February 2, the Society for Range Management will hold its 71st annual meeting in Sparks, NV. On January 30, BLM-NV State Director John Ruhs will provide a presentation on wild horses and burros symposium, "Moving Beyond Ecological Effects of Wild Horses." On January 31, there will be a tour of the Northern Nevada Correctional Center's wild horse inmate training program.

On January 29, the official comment period for the BSEE proposed rule revising the Production Safety Systems rule (Subpart H) closes.

On January 31, BLM-CA staff will participate in an oil and gas operator seminar that focuses on surface and environmental requirements associated with new oil and gas projects, including APDs and Sundry Notices. The BLM will provide seminar participants a refresher on the items

the BLM needs regarding biological, cultural, and paleontological reviews to ensure a quick turn around when new permits are submitted.

On January 31, the BLM-AK public scoping period ends for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 211-mile controlled industrial access road in the southern foothills of the Brooks Range. Additional tribal government invitation to consult letters are being sent to the Stebbins Community Association and the Native Villages of Kotlik and Saint Michaels.

On January 30, BOEM tentatively plans to publish a Notice of Unsolicited Request for a Submarine Transmission Cable ROW and a Request for Competitive Interest and Public Comment. This follows a request for a ROW grant from Clean Power Northeast Development, Inc. for its Atlantic Link Submarine Transmission Cable Project, which would consist of two high-voltage direct current cables and one fiber optic cable that stretches approximately 230 miles in length, from Colson Cove, New Brunswick, Canada to Plymouth Massachusetts.

On January 31, Mike Celata, BOEM-GoM Regional Director will speak at the Outer Continental Shelf Advisory Board's 2018 Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to promote continuing education of land, legal, and other exploration and production professionals with regard to laws, policies, regulations and practices on the OCS.

In February, BOEM tentatively plans to publish a Notice of Unsolicited Request for a Submarine Transmission Cable ROW and a Request for Competitive Interest and Public Comment. This follows a request for a ROW grant from Clean Power Northeast Development, Inc. for its Atlantic Link Submarine Transmission Cable Project, which would consist of two high-voltage direct current cables and one fiber optic cable that stretches approximately 230 miles in length, from Colson Cove, New Brunswick, Canada to Plymouth Massachusetts.

In February, the BLM-CA Bakersfield Field Office staff will participate in a USFS-led public meeting in Fillmore about four APDs in the Sespe Oil field, which is adjacent to a USFWS refuge and a California condor sanctuary. USFS is the lead agency on the NEPA analysis. The BLM anticipates a negative reaction to the proposed wells from local residents and organizations who in the past have opposed oil and gas development. The meeting will also be of interest to Rep. Julia Brownley (CA-26-D).

In February, BLM-CA's Bakersfield Field Office will participate in a USFS public meeting in Fillmore, CA regarding four APDs in the Sespe Oilfield, which is adjacent to a USFWS refuge and a California condor sanctuary. The USFS is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of the NEPA analysis. The BLM anticipates a negative reaction to the proposed wells from local residents who in the past opposed oil and gas development and because of the presence of several active anti-oil and gas organizations in the surrounding counties.

In February, the USFWS anticipates publishing in the Federal Register a Notice of Availability for an EA that analyzes issuance of an eagle take permit to Ocotillo Express LLC for its wind energy facility located on BLM lands in Imperial County, California. The EA is being prepared in response to Ocotillo Express LLC's application for a 5-year programmatic take permit for

golden eagles under the Eagle Act. The EA will also analyze the proponent's request to amend its BLM ROW grant to allow discontinuation of a radar avian detection system and a 10-year bio-monitoring program.

On February 2-10, the 2018 King of the Hammers Ultra Race will be held at the Johnson Valley OHV Area, including portions of public lands shared with the Twentynine Palms marine base, in San Bernardino County. This event is the largest BLM-CA special recreation permitted event and is expected to draw tens of thousands participants and spectators. The event takes place in Congressman Paul Cook's (CA-08-R) district and the Congressman and his staff have participated in previous years.

On February 5, BSEE Director Angelle will attend the Center for Offshore Safety (COS) annual external stakeholders group meeting in Washington, DC to discuss industry perspectives on offshore development and obtain insights on key issues being addressed by industry.

From February 5-8, the BLM-AK Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen and North Slope Science Initiative Executive Director Sara Longan will participate in meetings of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Executive Board in Fairbanks. The CAFF is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. Sara Longan, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) co-lead with the Kingdom of Denmark, will submit a near-final version of the CBMP Strategic Plan, which is a major milestone towards advancing biodiversity monitoring efforts throughout the U.S. and Arctic countries. A variety of federal agencies partner in this program, including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Department of State, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These meetings are not expected to be controversial.

On February 6, BSEE Director Angelle will attend the BSEE/USCG Quarterly Meeting at USCG Headquarters.

In mid-February, BOEM plans to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for a construction and operations plan submitted by Vineyard Wind for a proposed wind project approximately 14 miles from the nearest shore and south of Martha's Vineyard

On February 16, BOEM plans to publish the Final Notice of Sale and the Record of Decision for Lease Sale 250 in the Gulf of Mexico. The lease sale is scheduled to occur in March 2018 and it will be the second lease sale in the 2017 - 2022 National OCS Oil & Gas Program.

On February 16, Mike Celata, BOEM GoM Regional Director plans to speak at the Institute for Energy Law Oil & Gas Conference in Houston, TX. Specifically, Regional Director Celata will discuss BOEM's current financial assurance proposal.

On February 20-21, Mike Celata, BOEM GoM Regional Director plans to speak at the 10th Annual Decommissioning & Abandonment Summit in New Orleans, LA. The purpose of the conference is to bring together stakeholders and members of industry to share decommissioning and abandonment data, case study insight, and lessons learned.

On February 27 (Anchorage) and April 10-11 (Tok), BLM-AK Anchorage Field Manager Bonnie Million will attend Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative partners meeting. Recent major projects and discussion topics include mapping the human footprint across the 330-million-acre boreal, inventory of region-wide resource management plans, the Northwest Boreal Science and Management research tool, an Alaska and Northwest Canada monitoring system, wildland fires, building a better bird map, and identifying vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies.

On February 27-28, BSEE Director Angelle will attend the DOI Royalty Policy Committee meeting in Houston, TX.

In late February, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Sufco Mine Mining Plan decision document to OSMRE Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Bowie Resource Partners' Sufco Mine is an underground mine in Sevier County, Utah, that employs 383 people, and produces between 5.5 - 6.4 million tons per year.

On March 1, BSEE Director Angelle is scheduled to speak at a meeting of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) in New Orleans, LA.

On March 5-6, BOEM plans to host the Offshore Wind and Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange workshop with BSEE and USCG. The workshop is designed to bring together vessel operators, wind energy developers, regulators and other interested stakeholders to discuss measures to minimize safety risks and disruptions to maritime transportation while supporting the development of renewable energy.

On March 9, BOEM plans to publish the Proposed Notice of Sale for Lease Sale 251 in the Gulf of Mexico. The sale is scheduled to take place on August 15 and it will be the third lease sale in the 2017 - 2022 National OCS Oil & Gas Program.

Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget

On January 19, 2018, the extension of the Continuing Resolution for the FY 2018 Appropriations expires.

For the FY 2019 Appropriations, the Office of Management and Budget is working to deliver the President's Budget to Congress on February 5. To meet this deadline, OMB will lock the master data system to funding changes on January 9. No funding changes are allowed after that point.

In early/mid-January 2018, a progress report will be sent to the Western Governors Association (WGA) from DOI for the invasive mussels' initiative in the Columbia River Basin and across western waters. The Office of Policy Analysis (PPA) is working with the bureaus on the report which addresses action items which were announced by the Secretary in June to address invasive mussels in the Columbia River Basin, and across western waters.

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, requires Federal agencies to

adjust their civil monetary penalty rates for inflation every year. In response to the Office of Management and Budget's guidance for the inflation adjustment to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) civil monetary penalty rates, ONRR is publishing this direct final rule to increase ONRR's maximum civil monetary penalty rates for inflation occurring between October 2016 and October 2017. This rule is currently routing through the Department for signature, and ONRR intends to publish this rule by January 15, 2018.

On February 6-7, 2018, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will host the Indian Energy Minerals Steering Committee Meeting (IEMSC), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to address energy issues, concerns, challenges, and opportunities in Indian Country and the inter-agency cooperation necessary to address these items at all levels. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Solicitor's (SOL) office, and the Office of Special Trustee (OST) will also attend and participate.

On February 8, 2018, Office of Aviation Services (OAS) Director Mark Bathrick will be presenting "Drones for Good - Balancing Service, Safety, and Security for Program Success" at the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Defense, Protection, Security conference at National Harbor, MD.

On February 18, 2018, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Management Directive 715 Report is due to the EEOC.

On February 19-23, 2018, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) biannual meeting is scheduled in Washington, DC, with a public business meeting to be held on Thursday, February 22. The DOI Office of Policy Analysis (PPA) and the Department of Commerce (through NOAA) are co-chairs of the USCRTF, and are coordinating the event. The focus of the discussion is tentatively set for the following: natural disaster impacts to coral reefs; disaster risk reduction and resilience; and long-term sustainable financing for the Watershed Partnership Initiative. The meeting will also include a progress report on implementation of the FY16-FY20 Framework for Action.

On February 21-23, 2018, the Circle of Flight/Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Tribal Engagement Meeting will take place at the Oneida Nation Conference Center in Green Bay, WI. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will meet with Great Lakes tribal staff interested in discussing ideas for tribal input into GLRI Action Plan III.

The 2018 Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting will meet to coordinate interagency efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Commission and state and federal agencies that participate in Great Lakes Water Quality Act/Great Lakes Restoration Initiative activities will be in attendance.

On February 26 - March 2, 2018, various activities are being planned on Capitol Hill by the Reduce Risks of Invasive Species Coalition (RISC) and cooperators (including several U.S. Government agencies). The activities are likely to include seminars, podcasts, education/outreach displays, and a reception hosted by the chairs of the Invasive Species Caucus.

On February 27 - March 1, 2018, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) annual meeting is scheduled and will include the first National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Stakeholders Forum and a Federal-State Leadership Roundtable.

On March 31, 2018, the No FEAR Act Report is due to Congress.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Westlands Settlement legislation (H.R. 1769) is pending before the House of Representatives that would settle more than 20 years of litigation against the United States and reduce the threat of continued adverse legal action. Reclamation has a statutory obligation to provide drainage service within the San Luis Unit, and is subject to injunction orders entered by the U.S. district court in 2000 in the Firebaugh case to provide drainage without delay. Reclamation adopted a plan for drainage service in a 2007 Record of Decision. The estimated cost of implementing that plan is \$3.8 billion. Currently, approximately \$3.1 billion of this drainage service work remains to be implemented. H.R. 1769 (Valadao) would affirm an agreement between the United States and Westlands Water District (Westlands) in central California (Settlement). The Settlement, authorized by H.R. 1769, would relieve the United States of all drainage obligations within Westlands. Westlands would assume this obligation including indemnifying the United States of any past, present, or future claims, while agreeing to permanently retire a minimum of 100,000 acres of lands within Westlands. The Settlement would also relieve Westlands of certain financial obligations, authorize the conversion of Westlands' current 9(e) water service contract to a 9(d) repayment contract, and transfer title to certain CVP facilities that lie within Westlands boundaries to Westlands. The present value of the debt forgiven as part of the Settlement is estimated to be \$331.1 million in 2015 dollars. The legislation would eliminate a statutory obligation for construction estimated to cost more than three billion dollars. The district court has stated it will not grant further stays of the current injunction past January 15, 2018. If legislation is not enacted prior to that deadline, Reclamation will be required to expend significant funds to implement the Control Schedule of drainage measures for Westlands approved by the court and will likely face additional litigation. Interior is in the process of finalizing for clearance an administration position letter to Congress that supports H.R. 1769 and encourages its passage by the House.

North Coast Rivers Alliance et al. vs Reclamation (Case No. 16-cv-307-LJO-MJS) regarding San Luis Unit Interim Renewal Contract(s) (IRC) litigation, whereby the environmental documentation surrounding Westlands Water District (Westlands) IRCs is at the center of attention. Litigation on each of Westlands IRCs has been ongoing in one form or another for many years. In July 2016, the 9th Circuit affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded the District Court's rulings on the adequacy of Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the San Luis Unit IRCs that covered 2012-2014 time period. In response to the 9th Circuit ruling, its timing, subsequent motions, and the fact that the 2014-2016 IRCs had expired, Reclamation prepared a Revised EA for the current IRCs covering the period 2016-2018. On August 9, 2017, Plaintiffs filed a response to Reclamation's status report notifying the Court of the revised EA once again questioning its adequacy. The report is a preview of what Plaintiffs will argue in the case going forward.

On January 17-18, the Department of the Interior will hold the annual Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Federal Advisory Committee meeting at the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science chairs the ACWI with the USGS Associate Director for Water as the Alternate Chair. The purpose of the ACWI is to provide a forum for water information users and professionals to advise the Federal Government on activities and plans that may improve the effectiveness of meeting the Nation's water information needs. ACWI members help to foster communications between the Federal and non-Federal sectors on sharing water information. This annual meeting is to discuss broad policy-related topics relating to national water initiatives, as well as the development and dissemination of water information through reports from ACWI subgroups. The agenda will include updates from ACWI's various subcommittees, including activities related to continuing implementation of the Open Water Data Initiative and a report on the newly released Bulletin 17C, Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency. The ACWI operates in conformance with the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M 92 01 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. For more information on the ACWI, its membership, subgroups, meetings and activities, please see the website at: <https://acwi.gov>. This meeting is open to the public.

In mid-January, the USGS will release "Critical Metals in Navy SEAL Gear." Like last year's popular "A World of Minerals in Your Mobile Device," this infographic identifies minerals used in U.S. Navy SEAL gear such as night vision goggles, strobes, lithium ion battery packs, and weapons; and identifies the minerals' countries of origin. This is part of a new series originated by the USGS; the text was approved by the Department of Defense.

On January 25, the city of Atlanta will host a Celebration of Success luncheon event focusing on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in the Proctor Creek Watershed showcasing the multiple projects accomplished over the last few years. Invitees include representatives from the NGO, local community, corporate, and local, state, and federal governments. EPA has asked for representation from headquarters and regional director levels.

On January 25, the Department has been invited to participate in a meeting of the National Executive Committee for Space-based Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT EXCOM) to be held at the Pentagon. The Deputy Secretary serves as the DOI principal for the PNT EXCOM. The PNT EXCOM advises and coordinates among the federal departments and agencies on policies, architectures, requirements, and resource allocation for maintaining and improving U.S. space-based PNT infrastructures, including the Global Positioning System (GPS), its augmentations, and relationships with foreign space-based PNT service providers.

On January 31, the USGS will release the 41st annual Mineral Commodity Summaries 2018. The 2018 report identifies events, trends, and issues in the domestic and international minerals industries from 2017. The report is the earliest comprehensive source of mineral production data for the world. It includes statistics on 88 mineral commodities that are important to the U.S. economy and national security. The report identifies events, trends, and issues in the domestic and international minerals industries. A news release is planned.

In January, Reclamation will announce the selected ideas for the Arsenic Sensor Challenge. The challenge seeks ideas for a rapid, low-cost monitoring of arsenic that will benefit water treatment

plant operations, wastewater monitoring, contaminated site remediation, private well owners, scientific research and other interested parties.

In January, Reclamation is planning to release the FY 2018 Desalination and Water Purification funding opportunity (DWPR). The DWPR Program is helping Reclamation and its partners confront widening imbalances between supply and demand in basins throughout the Western United States through testing and development of new advanced water treatment technologies.

In January, the Bureau of Reclamation is planning to launch the Detecting Leaks and Flaws in Water Pipelines Stage 1 Prize Competition. Reclamation and its collaborators are seeking methods and technologies that can reliably and easily detect leaks and flaws in operating pressurized water pipeline infrastructure regardless of size, depth of burial, pipe material or interior lining.

In January, the Bureau of Reclamation is planning to launch the Pathogen Monitoring for Potable Reuse State 1 Prize Competition. Reclamation and Xylem, Inc., in collaboration with the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency are seeking the development of improved monitoring techniques to protect public health and optimize operations at water treatment facilities. Success could facilitate public and regulatory acceptance of direct potable reuse systems.

In January, Reclamation intends to publish a Notice of Availability for a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project. The document addresses methods to improve fish passage and increase floodplain fisheries rearing habitat in the Yolo Bypass to benefit Sacramento winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead and the Southern Distinct Population Segment North American green sturgeon. The NOA will be published in the Federal Register once the decision memo is signed by the Deputy Secretary. The Federal Register Notice is pending Bureau approvals. Two public meetings have been rescheduled for public comment on Jan. 17 in Woodland and Jan. 18 in West Sacramento.

In January, Reclamation is planning to launch three grant funding opportunities for Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, Water Marketing Grants, and Small-scale Water Efficiency Projects. Through WaterSMART Grants, Reclamation contributes to the Department of the Interior's priorities to modernize infrastructure, create a legacy of conservation stewardship, and utilize natural resources to ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs by providing financial assistance to water managers for projects that seek to modernize water and energy infrastructure.

In the coming months, a USGS paper will be published that evaluates earthquake shaking hazard, risk and building and infrastructure design criteria for South America. The project was funded in part by the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and uses the latest data, models, and methods applied in developing the U.S. building code maps. During the past century, South America has experienced many catastrophic earthquakes. New results indicate that over 150 million people live in areas with significantly elevated seismic hazard, primarily within the northern and western portions of the continent where tectonic earthquakes associated with subduction and crustal faulting are most common. Future earthquakes will most likely cause

billions of dollars of economic losses and thousands of casualties across the most seismically active regions. The new ground shaking models presented in the report can be used for analyzing building design standards and improving risk assessments which can save lives and dollars by providing new information on where and how to strengthen buildings in vulnerable areas. The report will be published in the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* and a USGS Top Story is being developed.

Major Press Inquiries

- USGS Alaska Science Center biologists Bob Gill, Lee Tibbitts and Brandt Meixell were all contacted by National Geographic Magazine for an upcoming story (March 2018) on migratory birds with an insert poster that will feature migratory pathways of numerous bird species, including some that have been studied by the USGS. Tibbitts and Meixell provided tracking data for the new map for bar-tailed godwits and greater white-fronted geese.
- Paul Steblein, USGS Wildland Fire Science Coordinator, was contacted by the Discovery Channel Canada Science and Technology show called 'Daily Planet' which showcases "the latest and greatest advancements in the sci-tech world" to learn about the work the USGS is doing in regards to the LA wildfires. The program also interviewed USGS fire ecologist Jon Keeley.
- Media: Background Interview with BBC Assistant Producer for Upcoming Sea Otter Nature Series: An assistant producer with the BBC is interested in speaking with sea otter ecologists from the USGS Western Ecological Research Center for a new wildlife series called, "First Year on Earth." If the center and producer are able to schedule a meeting, the interview will provide the producer with background information on environmental or anthropogenic variables affecting the range expansion of California's southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), and the physical and behavioral development of young otters. The BBC will partner with the Monterey Bay Aquarium to conduct three filming shoots on sea otters in Monterey Bay beginning in early-mid January and continuing through early May 2018.
- Media: "The Verge" Interviews USGS Ecologist for Facebook Video on California's Tree Mortality: On Tuesday, December 12, a reporter with The Verge (<https://www.theverge.com/>) interviewed Adrian Das of the USGS Western Ecological Research Center (WERC) for an upcoming Facebook video about tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada of California. The interview's primary purpose was to provide the reporter with background information for the video. Das works for lead scientist Nathan Stephenson, out of WERC's Sequoia & Kings Canyon Field Station. Stephenson's research program identifies the way in which disease, insect attacks, drought, and other threats interact to affect tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada.

To: John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Travnicek, Andrea[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Jason Larrabee[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Joseph Balash[joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Casey Hammond[casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov]; Austin Ewell[austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Brian Steed[bsteed@blm.gov]; Younger, Cally[cyounger@blm.gov]; Marshall Critchfield[marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[john_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Nichols[ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov]; Preston Beard[preston.beard@bsee.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Dove, William[william_dove@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Gary Lawkowski[gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; James Schindler[james.schindler@boem.gov]
Cc: Renner, Elinor[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov]
From: Magallanes, Downey
Sent: 2018-01-04T19:15:46-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: NEW DEADLINE: WH 30 Day Policy Outlook
Received: 2018-01-04T19:15:48-05:00
[DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 1-2-18.docx](#)

All,

In an effort to provide more lead time for the Chief of Staff to review the report before its submission, starting tomorrow, the new deadline for WH Weekly Report submissions to me is **FRIDAY NOON**.

This should not pose an issue given that your hallways will have already sent your submissions to the the Weekly Report to the Secretary.

The attached report is what was sent this week. There are several outdated submissions as was pointed out to me. Please **review the report** before you suggest changes or send a submission.

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Downey Magallanes
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
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202 706 9199

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
January 2, 2018

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of January 1, 2018

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

1. **GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA:** The National Park Service (NPS) is poised to begin the process of executing a cooperative management agreement with the state of New York to convert a former landfill, not currently being used by the public, into a state park under a forty-year lease agreement. NPS would have no fiscal or operational obligations, but would exercise some authority as the underlying property owner. The site is located in Brooklyn on Jamaica Bay; it is known as the Penn & Fountain piece. This will open up an area for new recreational opportunities. The State of New York is pushing NPS to announce this at the beginning of the state budget process in January. Interior is awaiting WH feedback before making this announcement.
Timing: January 2018
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** On Thursday, Interior will announce the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Program. The DPP will be available in the reading room Friday and published in the Federal Register Monday. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed offshore leasing areas with the public, and carries out the directive from EO 13795 (America First Offshore Energy Strategy). Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.
Timing: January 4, 2018
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
3. **KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. The Alaska Federation of Natives will be in Washington DC January 22 for a meeting, and Secretary Zinke will sign the exchange during this meeting which will take place at Interior. The Alaska delegation will also be invited to participate. Further, if conducive with the schedule, Presidential participation in the event would help to highlight the critical importance to Alaska natives.
Timing: January 22, 2018
Contact: Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

4. **ACTION ON ENERGY BURDENS:** Two rules identified in Interior’s energy burdens report, pursuant to Executive Order 13783, are currently under review by OIRA. The first proposed rule would revise certain provisions of the 2016 rule entitled “Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control”. Last week, Interior published a portion of the revision relating to the productions systems safety requirements of the 2016 rule. We hope to publish the proposed rule containing the larger revision by the end of January. The second final rule is the revision to the 2016 rule entitled, the “Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation” (venting and flaring rule). This rule will not likely be finalized until March.
Timing: January 2018-March 2018
Contact: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
5. **ALASKA 1002 AREA GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL (G&G) STUDIES:** Interior is drafting a proposed rule and associated environmental assessment to allow for advanced G&G studies on the oil and gas potential of the 1002 area in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge . Existing scientific data is decades old, and new data collection will be useful to better characterize the nature of any oil and gas deposits in the region. Once the rule goes into effect, additional environmental compliance is expected with respect to particular research proposals, which should minimally disrupt surface features in the 1002 area.
Timing: January 2018
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
6. **DOI ENERGY SUMMIT:** In support of the President’s energy dominance agenda, Interior is planning a summit to broadcast all aspects of the DOI’s energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration’s energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.
Timing: February/March 2018
Contact: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy
7. **LITIGATION ON FWS ENHANCEMENT FINDINGS:** On December 22, The DC Circuit issued an opinion in *Safari Club v. Zinke*, regarding the FWS negative Endangered Species Act enhancement findings for sport-hunted elephants taken in Zimbabwe during 2014 and 2015. The opinion found that the negative findings are unlawful for failure to comply with notice and comment rule-making requirements. The Circuit Court remanded the issue back to the District Court to remand back to FWS. FWS is currently evaluating the Circuit Court's opinion.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Dan Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony

1. **REPROGRAMMING REQUEST ON REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:** Interior will send a reprogramming letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees asking approval for FY 18 implementation of new shared regional boundaries across Interior’s bureaus. Presently

each of the 10 bureaus have different geographic boundaries for regional offices. The new approach would have bureaus share common boundaries based on ecosystems, using watersheds as a convenient and well-recognized proxy for ecosystems. Implementing common regions should improve the timeliness and appropriateness of decision making in the field, by allowing senior managers to focus on the same geography. Interior is preparing a comprehensive roll-out strategy to maximize the chances that this first step toward implementing the Secretary's longer term government reform plan will be well-received by Congress and stakeholders.

Timing: January 7, 2018

Contact: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget

2. **UPCOMING SENR HEARING:** The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee is set to hold an oversight hearing on the benefits of title transfer and opportunities to improve the process. Other topics include what types of projects and transfers should be approved by Congress; the process for getting transfer of a projects including the level of environmental compliance that is required; and why projects are pursuing transfers (ability to finance, lower project costs, approval delays, etc). Austin Ewell (Dep. Asst. Sec., ASWS) will be the witness.

Timing: January 17, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

3. **ANTICIPATED HEARINGS OF INTEREST:** House Natural Resources Committee intends to conduct a hearing on the Secretary's reorganization proposal. The hearing is pending but is intended to provide a platform for the Department to explain the new regional boundaries and how the proposal will work once it is implemented. The Senate Energy Committee expects to hold a hearing after the OCS Draft Proposed Plan is released. No details have been proposed yet, but the Committee's intention is for members to express their support or concerns regarding the proposal.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

4. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Susan Combs (A/S PMB), Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) and Steve Gardner (OSM) were nominated last year and were sent back to the WH to be renominated. SENR has yet to determine how they will move forward with nominees. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. Ms. Sweeney was held in the Senate and does not require renomination. Tim Petty was confirmed prior to the Senate Christmas recess.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **OFFSHORE OIL RISK BASED INSPECTIONS:** On January 2, BSEE will issue a Safety Alert covering findings and recommendations from a series of performance-based and risk-based inspections, a program that BSEE has been working to implement to reduce inspection workload and costs and direct on-site activities towards facilities with the highest risk profiles.

Timing: January 2, 2018

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

2. **MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:** In the next few weeks, BLM will publish Notice of Intents (NOI) regarding management plans in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The NOIs are the first steps in contemplating new management plans in these monuments, consistent with the monument modifications enacted by the President on December 4.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

3. **SAGE GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT:** A scoping report is set to be completed and released to the public in mid-January outlining responses from the states and the public regarding potential management plan changes. In the coming weeks, the Department will determine whether to proceed with plan amendments and initiate a public process on the 68 Sage Grouse Resources Management Plans.

Timing: January 15, 2018

Contact: Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

4. **ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.

Timing: January 2018

5. **DECISION PENDING ON AN APPEAL REGARDING TRESTLES SITE:** The Trestles site is an oceanfront area owned by the US Navy and leased to the State of California as a state park, which has long been used as a surfing destination. Efforts to list the area on the national register of historic places have been denied by the Navy. An appeal of the Navy's decision is currently before the National Park Service to sustain or override the Navy's position. This decision will be made by the end of January.

Timing: January 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

6. **CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT AND STATE WATER PROJECT:** The Bureau of Reclamation intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for analyzing potential modifications to the continued long-term operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), in a coordinated manner with California's State Water Project (SWP), for its authorized purposes, in a manner that enables Reclamation and California's Department of Water Resources to maximize water deliveries and optimize marketable power generation consistent with contractual obligations, agreements, including federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes; applicable laws; and to augment operational flexibility by addressing the status of listed species. Reclamation will continue to work with all stakeholders throughout this process. The NOI for the draft PEIS is out for public comment and comment period ends February 1, 2018.

Timing: February 2018

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

7. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSIDERING HUNTING AND FISHING CHANGES IN ALASKA:** The NPS intends to initiate a rulemaking process that will consider changes to regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska (80 FR 65325) (promulgated in October 2015 and effective on November 23, 2015). Throughout this process, the NPS will consider the purpose of Secretarial Order 3347 (“Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation”) to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The NPS will also identify ways to improve recreational hunting and fishing cooperation, consultation, and communication with State of Alaska wildlife managers. The NPS will comply with all applicable laws governing the rulemaking process, including the requirement to provide an opportunity for public comment on any proposed regulatory changes under 5 U.S.C. 553. The NPS is not accepting comments on this announcement. The public will have an opportunity to comment when a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
8. **US FISH & WILDLIFE MITIGATION POLICIES SCHEDULED FOR REVISION:** FWS is currently receiving public comment on portions of its Agency-Wide Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions on which FWS will request comment include the policies’ reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies references to the previous Administration’s mitigation directives. Based on comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policies. Outreach will include a news release and notifications to targeted stakeholders. There is a high level of interest from states, stakeholders, NGOs and the public.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
9. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout December, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
- **Cordero Rojo Mine.** OSMRE’s Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation in early January 2018. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
 - **Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification (WY):** OSMRE’s Western Region anticipates forwarding to OSMRE Headquarters a mining plan decision document with a recommendation on or about January 2, 2018, for the Bridger Mine. The mine employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.
- Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Other/Awareness Only

1. **INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COUNCIL:** In December, the International Wildlife Conservation Council was established, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The mission of the council is to advise the Secretary on methods to increase

public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits of U.S. citizens travelling to foreign nations to engage in hunting. Letters have been sent to 16 appointees who represent a wide array of backgrounds in wildlife/habitat conservation. The Deputy Secretary is scheduled to speak and announce the creation of the council at the Dallas Safari Club's annual meeting on January 6. The first official meeting of the newly created council is being planned for the first quarter of the year. Interior will float a scheduling proposal for a potential meeting with the President for members in conjunction with the first meeting.

Timing: January 6/Ongoing

Contact: Ben Cassidy, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs

2. **LINCOLN MEMORIAL RENNOVATIONS BEGIN WITH ROOF REPAIRS:** Work will begin this month on renovating the Lincoln Memorial. On September 19, a \$2.8 million contract for the work was awarded to local roofing contractor. Funded by the FY17 NPS appropriation, the work is expected to be completed in August 2018. The contract also includes repair of cracks in the memorial's penthouse level, caused by the 2011 earthquake. Funded in part by an \$18.5 million donation from philanthropist David Rubenstein, this is the first phase of a \$25 million dollar restoration which will include expanded public use areas.

Timing: January 2, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **ICONIC MLK SPEECH TO BE READ ALOUD BY AREA FIFTH GRADERS:** The 14th annual reading of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream Speech" will take place at the Lincoln Memorial, National Mall and Memorial Parks. Watkins Elementary in Northeast DC will host the event and the speech will be read by 100 fifth graders in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Each student will read one line on the site where King stood during the August 28, 1963 March on Washington.

Timing: January 12, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **WREATH LAYING SCHEDULED TO COMMEMORATE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S BIRTHDAY:** The MLK Memorial Foundation will hold a wreath laying ceremony in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial along the Washington, D.C. Tidal Basin. This is a permitted event coordinated by the Memorial Foundation. The National Park Service has requested a list from the foundation of DOI/NPS invitees to the event.

Timing: January 15, 2018

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

5. **HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** The Department continues to participate in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework, as well as the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Interior is the lead federal agency on the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery mission and has deployed teams to Puerto Rico and the USVI to work with the Territorial government representatives on developing recovery priorities and long term recovery strategies. The Department will participate in the first Territory/Federal Agency coordinating meeting in the USVI next week. Natural and Cultural

Resource Team assessments are ongoing working with territorial governments in the VI and PR, as well as non-profits organizations.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

6. **REBUILD OUR PARKS INITIATIVE:** Interior continues to look for opportunities to announce the Rebuild the Parks Initiative, which would create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the maintenance backlog in the parks and refuges. The Secretary has continued to discuss a path forward on the language with Director Mulvaney. Interior is currently negotiating language for the 2019 Budget and Infrastructure proposal.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

7. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior is continuing to work with OMB on language to exempt certain timber harvest activities from NEPA requirements to help prepare for wildfires. Interior submitted this language to OMB for consideration as a part of the supplemental. It was not included in the version sent to the hill however; OMB has reached out to continue to work with us on a path forward. Interior also plans to send the policy to NEC, who has not been made aware of details of the proposal.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

8. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have signed an extension lease for the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) which enables operation of the coal-fired power plant to continue through December 22, 2019. The Bureau of Reclamation has a participation interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnick, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR THE SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANT PROGRAM:** Applications are being accepted for \$5 million in matching grants to support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections through the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. Funded through offshore oil revenues, SAT was established in 1998 by executive order and was co-founded with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Key Events

January 10-11	Remarks at Internal DOI Leadership Summit in Washington, DC
January 12	Potential Martin Luther King Day event in Washington, DC
January 22	Alaska Federation of Natives event and King Cove Announcement in Washington, DC

Travel by Secretary

January 9	Secretary tentative travel to Florida
January 25	Secretary travel to Las Vegas, NV for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) Sporting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trades (SHOT) Show
February 2	Secretary travel to Las Vegas, NV for Safari Club Convention

To: Larrabee Jason[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]
From: Maureen Foster
Sent: 2018-01-05T08:24:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: 90-day list timeframes
Received: 2018-01-05T08:24:34-05:00
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Projected Dates in OMB Quarterly Regulatory Reports 1.4.18.docx](#)

Maureen D. Foster
Chief of Staff
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
202.208.5970 office
202.306.3845 cell

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Date: January 4, 2018 at 11:13:06 AM EST
To: Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Foster, Maureen" <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Wendy Fink
<wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov>, Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Jim
Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>,
Kashyap Patel <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, Zachariah Gambill
<zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Subject: 90-day list timeframes

Hi Downey-
Please see the attached, which explains what drives each of the items on our 90-day list, as well as our expected timeline for the next quarterly report. Please let me know what other information you may need, and we can provide it.
Thanks!
Charisa

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 10:59 AM, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Downey-
I am on SL today. I'll send you anything our team knows about our 90-day list timeframes by email. Let me know if you need anything else!

Happy New Year,
Charisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2018, at 9:15 AM, downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov wrote:

Hi- please come prepared to discuss the 90-day list for this meeting.
Interested in particular on the timeframes given. Thank you.

Chiefs of Staff Weekly Meeting

Weekly meeting with Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Downey Magallanes and Chief of Staff, Scott Hommel.

Chiefs of Staff:

- Amy Holley, Chief of Staff, PMB
- Maureen Foster, Chief of Staff, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Charisa Morris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Lisa Mendelson, Chief of Staff, NPS
- Kerry Rae, Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Water & Science
- James Hess, Chief of Staff, BOR
- Jill Moran, Acting Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Lands & Minerals Management
- Peter Mali, Acting Chief of Staff, BLM
- Emily Lindow, Chief of Staff, BOEM
- Elizabeth Appel, Acting Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
- Thomas Lillie, Chief of Staff, Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement

When Wed Jan 3, 2018 2:30pm – 3pm Eastern Time

Where Room 6151 and Dial-in: (b)(5) and code: (b)(5) ([map](#))

Video call (b)(5), (b)(6)

Who

- . downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov organizer
- . gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov creator
- . kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov
- . lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov
- . emily.lindow@boem.gov
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Charisa_Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 |
For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

Projected Dates in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Quarterly Regulatory Reports to OMB

I. Background

In accordance with Executive Order 12866, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) submits quarterly reports of rulemaking documents that are anticipated to be ready for review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during the upcoming 3-month period. OMB uses these reports to determine which rulemaking documents are “significant” as defined in the Executive Order and, therefore, will require OMB review. The prescribed format of the reports includes fields for, among other things, a description of the action, including any expected controversy that may result, and the date that the rule could be ready for submission to OMB.

II. How FWS establishes the dates in the report

The majority of dates in the “Ready for Review” column of the FWS quarterly regulatory reports are derived from the originating program’s internal processes. For discretionary rules, the programs determine their internal priorities and evaluate their upcoming workload and the resources expected to be available for rulemaking. Program officials then project a date whereby they anticipate staff can draft a rulemaking document, including any needed supplementary analyses, such as an economic analysis or environmental assessment, and have the document complete the departmental clearance process for approval for OMB submission.

Other dates in the “Ready for Review” column derive from statutory, court-ordered, or other externally driven deadlines. Examples below are from the FWS Q2 FY2018 report:

The rulemaking process for this rule is being driven by a **statute**:

- 1018 BC05, Civil Procedures; Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties

The rulemaking processes for these rules are being driven by our responsibility to regulate take of fish and wildlife and **open legal hunting seasons as required by statute**:

- 1018 BB40, Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2018 19 Season
- 1018 BB73, Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations for the 2018 19 Hunting Season
- 1018 BC70, Migratory Bird Subsistence in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska during the 2018 Season
- 1018 BA76, Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2017 2018 and 2018 2019 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
- 1018 BC06, Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2019 2020 and 2020 2021 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish

In addition, the Endangered Species Act requires the Secretary to publish a final rule for listing determinations and critical habitat designations within 1 year of publication of the

proposed rule, with certain limited exceptions. So our final listing and critical habitat designations are also driven by a statutory deadline.

The rulemaking processes for these documents are being driven by **settlement agreements**:

- 1018 BB34, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Determination for the Texas Hornshell
- 1018 BB64, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Determination for the San Fernando Valley Spineflower

The rulemaking process for this document is being driven by a **court order**:

- 1018 BC12, Depredation Orders for Double-Crested Cormorants; Removal of Regulations

Finally, some FWS rulemaking actions have **deadlines determined by Department officials**.

These two rulemaking actions are examples:

- 1018 BC87, Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Species; Revision of Regulations To Address Interagency Cooperation, and Prohibitions
- 1018 BC88, Endangered and Threatened Species of Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Regulations for Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat

III. The timeline for developing the Q3 FY2018 report

The FWS Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs (PPM) will send out a call to the FWS programs for input for the Q3 list in January. The deadline for submission to PPM will be January 19, 2018.

After receipt of program input, PPM will assemble a draft list, including updating the status of items that were on the Q2 list. This process will involve follow-up queries to the programs for additional information.

After PPM finishes the draft list, we will submit it through the FWS Director's Office, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and then to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES).

Our goal is to get the hardcopy package to OES by February 28, 2018.

To: Fink Wendy[wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov]; Larrabee Jason[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]
From: Maureen Foster
Sent: 2018-01-05T08:24:48-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: 30-day Projections Report: Request for Updates by Noon Friday 1/5/2018
Received: 2018-01-05T08:24:51-05:00
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Federal Register 30 day projections for Wednesday, 01-03-2018-to Reg Contacts.xlsx](#)

Maureen D. Foster
Chief of Staff
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
202.208.5970 office
202.306.3845 cell

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Apgar, Megan" <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Date: January 4, 2018 at 12:05:54 PM EST
To: Regulatory Contacts <regulatory_contacts@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Lisa Mendelson <lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov>, Emily Lindow <emily.lindow@boem.gov>, "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Peter Mali <pmali@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill" <jcmoran@blm.gov>, Thomas Lillie <thomas.lillie@bsee.gov>, Glenda Owens <gowens@osmre.gov>, Debrah McBride <debrah.mcbride@bia.gov>, James Hess <jhess@usbr.gov>, "Nowakowski, Judy" <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: 30-day Projections Report: Request for Updates by Noon Friday 1/5/2018

Good Morning,

I have attached the January 3 version of the 30 day Projections report. Please send your bureau's or office's updates by noon, Friday, January 5. Your submission should include ALL Federal Register documents you reasonably expect to advance for OS clearance in the next 30 days, as well as documents pending OMB review. Please coordinate your submission with your Chief of Staff.

Please follow these instructions to facilitate preparation of a consistent report:

Formatting

- Do not change formatting (except to add or delete rows).
- Rename the file to include your bureau/office and the date when you submit to OES.

Dates

- Provide realistic dates for DOI clearance (e.g., 5 business days for OES, appropriate times for

AS/Bureau clearance).

- For time sensitive documents, please include information in columns G and L. If there is a statutory or judicial deadline, specify the date.

Other Information

- If an action merits a Press Release, provide a detailed summary for each action reported, to include any key communication messages.
- Remove any documents that have been approved to go to the Federal Register or that have been delivered and are awaiting publication.
- Include any rules that have been approved to go to OMB for review or that are at OMB.
- For Current Status, please use: Pending Bureau clearance, Pending Assistant Secretary clearance, Pending Solicitor clearance, or Pending Office of the Secretary clearance. These standard terms will facilitate sorting in Excel.

Call if you have questions.

Thanks you for your continued work on this report,

Megan Apgar
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
office: (202) 208-4582

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1004-AE53	BLM	Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Rescission or Revision of Certain Requirements
1014-AA39	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the OCS—Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions
1012-AA22	ONRR	Repeal of Regulatory Amendment and Restoration of ONRR's Former Regulatory Language Governing Service of Official Correspondence
1012-AA23	ONRR	Inflation Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalties for Calendar Year 2018
1018-AY05	FWS	Removing Eastern Puma (=Cougar) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
1018-BA76	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
1010-AD99	BOEM	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf — Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
This proposed rule would revise the 2016 final rule to reduce unnecessary compliance burdens associated with the 2016 final rule and would re-establish longstanding requirements that the 2016 final rule replaced.
BSEE is proposing to revise existing regulations for well control and blowout preventer systems. This proposed rule would revise regulations addressing well design, well control, casing, cementing, real-time monitoring, and subsea containment. These revisions would include regulations pertaining to offshore oil and gas drilling, completions, workovers, and decommissioning in accordance with Executive and Secretarial Orders to ensure safety and environmental protection, while reducing certain regulatory burdens imposed under the existing regulations. The proposed regulations would also address various issues that were identified during the implementation of the 2016 final rulemaking on these issues.
ONRR is publishing this rule to repeal a 2013 direct final rule and restore the former regulatory language governing service of official correspondence.
The Office of Natural Resources Revenue publishes this direct final rule to increase our maximum civil monetary penalty rates for inflation occurring between October 2016 and October 2017.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing this subspecies from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to extinction. There is no evidence of the existence of either an extant reproducing population or any individuals of the eastern puma subspecies, and that, for various reasons, it is highly unlikely that an eastern puma population could remain undetected since the last confirmed sighting in 1938. This rule finalizes the proposal to delist the eastern puma on the basis of extinction. The assessment of the eastern puma's current status, completed in January 2011, found no evidence of the existence of either an extant population of, or individual eastern pumas, and concluded that the subspecies should be considered extinct.
FWS and the U.S. Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) will revise the regulations for seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means for the taking of fish and shellfish for subsistence uses in Alaska during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 regulatory seasons. The Federal Subsistence Board will also address customary and traditional use determinations for fish and shellfish.
The rule adjusts the level of the maximum civil monetary penalties contained in the BOEM regulations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and Office of Management and Budget guidance.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	yes	
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory; publication by 1/15/2018
Final Rule	yes	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	yes	yes	no	1/12/2018

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	@ OMB for E.O. 12866 Review	11/1/2017
early February	@ OMB for E.O. 12866 review	12/6/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/28/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	01/02/18
mid January	Pending bureau clearance	12/27/17

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1806		Interagency review comments were due by 11/27/2017.
BSE0000925		Uploaded to ROCIS 12/07/2017. E.O. 12866 comments due 1/05/2017.
	ONRR	This rule is on the Department's 90-day list for publication before year end. Timing is not critical, other than to meet the Department's internally-set deadline.
	ONRR	This rule is on the Department's 90-day list for publication by January 15, 2018. Timing is critical so as to meet the Congressional deadline according to the FCPIA provisions of 2015 and OMB guidance.
3004	ES	
3176	SM	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1014-AA36	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-156-FOR]
	OSMRE	Ohio Regulatory Program [OH-255-FOR]
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-078-For
	OSMRE	Kentucky Regulatory Program [KY-256-FOR]
1018-BB22	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—Applicability and Scope; Tongass National Forest Submerged Lands
1024-AE31	NPS	Rocky Mountain National Park; Bicycling
1024-AD40	NPS	Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment
1024-AE42	NPS	Rights of Way; Removal of Reference to Outdated Environmental Criteria

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
This Direct final rule adjusts the level of the maximum civil monetary penalty contained in the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. The civil penalty inflation adjustment, using a 1.02041 multiplier, accounts for one year of inflation spanning October 2016 to October 2017.
State submitted amendments to address requirements from 30 CFR 938.16, concerning permit denials for repeat violators.
State submitted regulations to compel State agencies to review administrative rules every five years, and establish several non-substantive procedural rules.
Clarifying that the venue for appeals of Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) decisions resides in the Circuit Court of the county in which the agency maintains its principal office.
Approval of new bonding program regulations.
The U.S. District Court for Alaska, in an October 17, 2011, order, enjoined the United States “to promptly initiate regulatory proceedings for the purpose of implementing the subsistence provisions in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) with respect to submerged public lands within Tongass National Forest,” and directed entry of judgment. To comply with the order, the Federal Subsistence Board (DOI/FWS and USDA/Forest Service, joint rulemaking) published a proposed rule to identify those submerged lands within the Tongass that did not pass to the State of Alaska at Statehood and therefore are subject to the subsistence provisions of ANILCA. DOI/FWS and USDA/Forest Service will now finalize the proposed rule.
This rule would authorize and allow for management of bicycling on a 2-mile segment of the East Shore trail within Rocky Mountain National Park. The rule is necessary because the National Park Service general regulation at 36 CFR 4.30 requires promulgation of a special regulation to authorize bicycling on trails outside of developed areas.
This rule revises DOI regulations implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to provide for annual adjustments of civil penalties to account for inflation under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 and OMB guidance.
This rule removes and outdated reference to a document establishing environment criteria for electric transmissions lines that is no longer used by the NPS to evaluate applications for right-of-way permits

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	yes	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory, 1/15/2018
Final Rule	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/6/2017
mid January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	11/17/17
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/15/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/15/17
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/27/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
		BSEE is promulgating this 2018 inflation adjustment for civil penalties as a final rule pursuant to the provisions of the FCPIA of 2015 and OMB guidance.
	SM	
NPS0024625		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1018-AW04	FWS	Removing Eureka Valley Evening-Primrose (<i>Oenothera avita</i> ssp. <i>eurekensis</i>) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants, and Reclassifying Eureka Dune Grass (<i>Swallenia alexandrae</i>) from Endangered to Threatened
1018-BC05	FWS	Civil Penalties; 2018 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties
1018-BB40	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2017–18 Season
	BIA	Tribal Transportation Program: Delay of Compliance Date
	FWS	Texas hornshell final listing rule
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-082-For
1018-BB76	FWS	Removing the Monito Gecko from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
<p>This is a final determination on our proposal to delist Eureka Valley evening-primrose and Eureka dune grass. We will delist Eureka Valley evening-primrose and reclassify to threatened the Eureka dune grass. These plants occur in Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, California</p>
<p>In accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Inflation Adjustment Act) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, this final rule adjusts for inflation the statutory civil monetary penalties that may be assessed for violations of Service-administered statutes and their implementing regulations. We are required to adjust civil monetary penalties annually for inflation according to a formula specified in the Inflation Adjustment Act. This rule replaces the previously issued amounts with the updated amounts after using the 2018 inflation adjustment multiplier provided in the OMB guidance.</p>
<p>This rule makes final special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and ceded lands for the 2017–18 migratory bird hunting season.</p>
<p>This final rule confirms the effective date of the interim final rule that pushed the compliance deadline for Tribes to provide certain road inventory information until 2019.</p>
<p>This final determination would list the Texas hornshell as an endangered species. The Texas hornshell is a freshwater mussel in New Mexico and Texas that was proposed as an endangered species on August 10, 2016. We reopened the comment period in May 2017 to hold public hearings in Laredo, Texas, and Carlsbad, New Mexico. We published a 6-month extension to the final determination on August 10, 2017 to gather more information about the species’ status in Mexico. We have received information that the populations in Mexican Gulf Coastal streams are not the same species as Texas hornshell. Additionally, survey results from the Rio Salado basin (tributary system to the Rio Grande in Mexico) corroborated our assumption that the species has been extirpated from that basin.</p>
<p>Alabama is proposing revisions to its program to raise revenues sufficient to fund the Alabama Surface Mining Commisision's share of costs to administer their coal program.</p>
<p>We propose to remove the Monito gecko from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. This determination is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information, which indicates that the threats to this species have been eliminated or reduced to the point that the species no longer meets the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species under the ESA. We seek information, data, and comments from the public regarding this proposal to delist the Monito gecko, and on the draft post-delisting monitoring plan.</p>

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Other
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory; publication by 1/15/2018
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Other
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Judicial (2/10/2018)
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	yes	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/21/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/21/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/28/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/21/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/19/17
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/29/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
3117	ES	Secretarial Priority 12/30/2017
3172	LE	We are awaiting final OMB guidance.
3175	MB	This is a final rule for the 2017–18 hunting season on tribal lands. An interim rule is in place until this final rule publishes.
IAFR000486		
3021	ES	
3133	ES	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1024-AD93	NPS	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area -- Off-Road Vehicle Use
	OSMRE	Montana Regulatory Program [MT-036-FOR]
1018-BB73	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations
1018-BC06	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-081-For
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania AMLR Plan [PA-165-FOR]
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-166-FOR]
	OSMRE	Arkansas Regulatory Program [AR-040-FOR]
1018-BB96	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Island Marble Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat
1018-BC70	FWS	Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2018 Season

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
The rule would authorize off-road vehicle use, designate routes and areas, and establish criteria for operation of off-road vehicles. This rule is required by the terms of a 2008 court-approved settlement agreement between the NPS and environmental groups. If this rule is not issued, the plaintiffs could re-litigate their claims and a court could require the NPS to stop all off-road vehicle use at the Recreation Area.
Adoption of regulations related to in-situ coal gasification
To fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposal earlier in 2017 to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018–19 hunting season. This supplement to that proposed rule provides the Flyway Council recommendations from their August meetings, the Service response to those recommendations, and the proposed frameworks for the 2018–19 migratory bird hunting seasons.
FWS and the U.S. Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) will revise the regulations for seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means for the taking of fish and shellfish for subsistence uses in Alaska during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 regulatory seasons. The Federal Subsistence Board will also address customary and traditional use determinations for fish and shellfish and rural determinations.
Alabama is proposing revisions to its program to allow the Alabama Surface Mining Commission to revise its current permit fee collection procedures from the term of the mine permit to enable the collection of permit fees over the entire life of the mine.
Pennsylvania is proposing to modify its AMLR Plan by adding a new amendment to allow the state Department of Environmental Protection to administer a State Emergency Program under Title IV of SMCRA.
The Pennsylvania General Assembly recently amended its Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act (BMSCLA), to include language clarifying the circumstances where a finding of presumptive evidence of pollution is warranted under the Commonwealth's Clean Streams Law.
Arkansas is withdrawing its previously submitted amendment in response to an OSMRE letter sent to the state in accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(c). Arkansas will submit a new proposed amendment after working with OSMRE to address deficiencies found during OSMRE's review of the submittal.
This action proposes to list the island marble butterfly, endemic to the San Juan Islands in Washington State, as an endangered species under the ESA and proposes a critical habitat designation.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) is proposing migratory bird subsistence harvest regulations in Alaska for the 2018 season.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Proposed Rule	yes	no	yes	Other
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	yes	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/11/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/20/2017
mid January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/4/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/13/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/2017

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30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
NPS0023641		
3173	MB	
	SM	
3049	ES	
3155	MB	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BIA	Education Contracts under Johnson O'Malley
1018-BC92	FWS	Geological and Geophysical Exploration of the Coastal Plain, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; Exploration Plans; Application Requirements
	BOR	Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, Santa Fe County, New Mexico
	NPS	Notice of Adoption and Recirculation of the USACE's EIS for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Creek Management Project at GATE
	BOR	NOA Supplemental Draft EIS Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant/Keechelus Reservoir-to-Kachess Reservoir Conveyance (K Projects)
	FWS	Notice of Availability for SBSP Restoration Project, Phase 2, at Eden Landing, dEIS/EIR
	BIA	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic EIS for the Proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Former Bennett Freeze Area within Coconino County, Arizona
	BLM	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Chapita Wells Natural Gas Infill Project, Uintah County, Utah

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
This rule would update the eligibility requirements for benefits received by individuals under JOM contracts to eliminate the requirement for a certain blood quantum, and instead rely on Tribal membership status.
The proposed rule would amend the regulations that restrict the dates when an application may be submitted for a permit for a geological and geophysical exploration plan on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lands described in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.
The proposed Federal action for this Final EIS proposes to plan, design, and construct a regional water system in accordance with the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act, consisting of water diversion from the Rio Grande and water treatment facilities on the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, along with storage tanks and transmission/distribution pipelines.
This Notice is advising the public and interested agencies that NPS is adopting the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps of Engineers) September 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Risk Management Plan.
The SDEIS addresses the impacts associated with the K Projects by expanding on the analysis conducted in the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
The draft EIS/EIR analyzes the proposed restoration of salt ponds at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Alameda County, California. The Eden Landing Ecological Reserve is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Phase 2, Eden Landing project involves the restoration and/or enhancement of 2,270 acres of tidal wetlands and managed pond habitats in the South San Francisco Bay while simultaneously providing flood risk management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation. The draft EIS/EIR evaluates four alternatives; the No Action Alternative, and three Action Alternatives.
BIA, in cooperation with the Navajo Nation, intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential environmental impacts for the proposed Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). The FBFA encompasses 1.6 million acres in the northeast corner of Arizona on the Navajo Nation Reservation.
This notice will initiate a 45-day public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS analyzes EOG Resources Inc's (EOG) proposal to further develop their valid existing leases in the existing Greater Chapita Wells area.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	
NEPA notice				
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	no	yes	no	
NEPA Notice	no	no	no	Other
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/26/2017
early January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/12/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/18/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/26/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/4/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/20/17

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
IAFR000485		
SEN 6553	NWRS	
BOR0016095		
22346		
BOR0015836		
3126	NWRS	
IAFR000422	NWRS	Tribe requesting publication ASAP
1514		BLM needs to address OS comments prior to clearance; have revised materials been provided to Regs as of 12/20? Regs is unaware of any documents or issues sent back. Please email Chandra Little and cc Charles Yudson regarding this notice. Regs needs additional materials for clearance as of 1/2/2018.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare Monument Management Plans for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek and Shash Jaa Units and associated Environmental Impact Statement, Utah
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included
	BIA	NOA: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ho-Chunk Nation Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project, City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin
	BIA	FONSI for NGS Extension Lease
	BIA	EIS Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement in Lane County, Oregon
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Riley Ridge to Natrona Project, Wyoming
	BLM	Notice of Availability: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Sonoran Valley Parkway Project, AZ

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
The BLM Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah intends to prepare a Monument Management Plan (MMP) for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit and an associated EIS.
Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement
This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, with the City of Beloit (City), Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Ho-Chunk Nation (Nation), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serving as cooperating agencies, intends to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the EPA for the Ho-Chunk Nation Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project, City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin (Proposed Project). This notice also announces that the DEIS is now available for public review and that a public hearing will be held to receive comments on the DEIS.
This notice announces a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA for the Navajo Generating Station Extension Lease, Coconino County, Arizona.
NOI to Prepare an EIS for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Cathedral City Fee-to-Trust Casino Project, Cathedral City, Riverside County, California.
The BLM, through this Notice of Intent, will be implementing the analysis process for the Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM will consider alternatives that meet the purpose of the project to reduce the risk of infrastructure failure at Hult Dam from excessive water and sediment loading, within the scope of what BLM could reasonably fund and within the scope of the BLM's jurisdiction.
Denbury Green Pipeline- Riley Ridge, LLC (Denbury) is proposing to construct a 16 and 24 inch carbon dioxide (CO2) pipeline and associated facilities along a 243-mile long linear right-of-way through Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater and Natrona counties in Wyoming. The project is referred to as the Riley Ridge to Natrona Project.
The BLM is releasing the Final EIS related to the development of the proposed Sonoran Valley Parkway Project by the City of Goodyear, in Maricopa County, Arizona. The City applied for a ROW grant to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate a 2- to 6-lane parkway on mostly Federal public land.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	no			
NEPA Notice	yes			
NEPA Notice	no	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/14/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/6/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/17/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/27/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1893		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.
1894		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.
IAFR000387; 3063	NWRS	
IAFR000478		
IAFR000483		
1746		
1749		
1775		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange, Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado
	BLM	NOA of Draft SEIS for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for GMT2, NPR-A
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Lummi Nation Code of Laws Trust
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
	BIA	Chickasaw Nation Amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance
	BIA	Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance
	ONRR	States' Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil & Gas Marginal Properties
	FWS	Notice of Availability of Draft Revised Stock Assessment Report for the Northern Sea Otter Stock in Washington; Request for Comments

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
The BLM proposes to exchange certain Federal lands for properties owned by Galloway, Inc., the owners of the Blue Valley Ranch. The land exchange proposal would convey approximately 1,489 acres of Federal lands managed by the BLM in Grand County, Colorado, to Blue Valley Ranch in exchange for approximately 1,830 acres of non-Federal lands in Summit and Grand counties, Colorado.
ENERGY: Releasing the Draft Supplemental EIS for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for the Proposed Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Development Project, National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, for public comments; announces public meetings and subsistence hearings.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Lummi Nation's leasing regulations under the HEARTH Act. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into the following type of leases without BIA approval: Business and Residential purposes.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's leasing regulations under the HEARTH Act. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into Residential leases without BIA approval.
This notice announces that the Tribe adopted an amendment to its liquor control ordinance. Publication in the Federal Register is required by statute.
This notice announces that the Tribe adopted amendments to its liquor control ordinance.
ONRR regulations provide two types of accounting and auditing relief for Federal onshore or Outer Continental Shelf lease production from marginal properties. Each year ONRR provides a list of qualifying marginal Federal oil and gas properties to States that receive a portion of Federal royalties from those properties. Each State then decides whether to participate in one or both relief options. For calendar year 2018, we provide this notice with the affected States' decisions to allow one or both types of relief.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is publishing a notice of availability on the draft revised stock assessment report for the northern sea otter stock in Washington. This notice opens a 90-day public comment period to request input on this draft revision.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	12/29/2017
Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/1/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	9/19/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	9/19/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/31/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/30/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/28/2017

Draft

30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1786		
1787		
IAFR000427		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000434		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR999469		Tribe has been requesting publication ASAP.
IAFR000470		
	ONRR	ONRR must publish a Federal Register notice at the end of each calendar year to notify the public of the States' determination to participate in one or both relief options. We prefer to publish this Notice by December 1, 2017 to allow ample time for public review, but definitely no later than the last business day of 2017 (December 29).
3083	ES	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	FWS	Species Proposals for Consideration at the 18th Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
	FWS	Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permits (Foreign species applications; Smithsonian National Zoological Park, first applicant)
	FWS	Teleconference/Meeting Notice - North American Wetlands Conservation Council
	BIA	List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated with Self-Governance Tribes for Non-BIA Programs
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Torrez Martinez Desert Cahuilla
	BIA	Bureau of Indian Education Standards, Assessments, and Accountability System Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Establishment; Nominations
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Ramona Band
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval - Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
<p>We invite information and recommendations on animal and plant species to be considered as candidates for U.S. proposals to amend Appendices I and II of CITES at the upcoming 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). Such amendments may concern the addition of species to Appendix I or II, the transfer of species from one Appendix to another, or the removal of species from Appendices. We also describe the U.S. approach to preparations for CoP18. We will publish a second Federal Register notice specifically to solicit information and recommendations on possible resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for discussion at CoP18 and to provide information on how to request approved observer status.</p>
<p>This notice is a weekly action taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority to notify the public of the receipt of permit applications under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on ESA and MMPA permits. There are no decisions announced in these weekly notices, but we cannot finalize the review of the permit applications until the conclusion of a mandatory 30-day comment period.</p>
<p>Teleconference will occur on February 22, 2018</p>
<p>This Notice lists the Interior programs that are eligible for inclusion in funding agreements negotiated with self-governance Tribes for each Interior Bureau other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This Notice also lists FY 2018 programmatic targets, as required by law.</p>
<p>This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' business leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business leases without further BIA approval.</p>
<p>The BIE is extending the nomination and comment period for this committee.</p>
<p>This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.</p>
<p>This notice proclaims 520 acres in San Diego County, California as reservation for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians.</p>
<p>This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma's leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into certain types of leases without further BIA approval.</p>

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	9/13/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/17/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/2/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/19/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/1/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/22/2017

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30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
3127	IA	
3142	IA	
3165	MB	
IAFR000426; 3033	ES	
IAFR000439		
IAFR000440		
IAFR000468		
IAFR000471		
IAFR000474		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: New Mexico
	BOEM	Request for Feedback – BOEM Renewable Leasing Path Forward
1010-0057	BOEM	Information Collection Activities: 30-Day notice, 30 CFR 550, subpart C, Pollution Prevention and Control
1006-0028	BOR	60-day Notice Information Collection 1006-0028
	BSEE	F.R. Notice Rescinding Privacy Act Systems of Records Notices under the former MMS
	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Incidental Take Permit Application, Habitat Conservation Plan for Skink Species, and Environmental Assessment for Roadway Relocation in Polk County, FL
	BIA	Notice - BIA 2018-19 Proposed Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects
	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts in the State of California
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Skokomish Indian Tribe of WA
	BIA	Proclaiming certain lands as Reservation for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation of WA

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
The BLM received an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (Disclaimer) from Eric Oppenheimer/The Simmons Firm . This notice is intended to inform the public of the pending application, give notice of the BLM's intention to grant the requested Disclaimer of Interest, and provide a public comment period for the Disclaimer of Interest.
Request for Feedback – BOEM Renewable Leasing Path Forward for Future Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing on the Atlantic OCS
This information collection renewal concerns the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 550, subpart C. The 60-day notice was published on October 25, 2017, and announces the 60-day public comment period (ends December 26, 2017). The 30-day notice will be published at the end of the comment period, and announces a 30-day comment period in which comments are sent directly to OMB.
Reclamation is soliciting comments on the renewal of the Recreation Visitor Use Survey information collection.
BSEE is rescinding six systems of records notices (SORNs) from its existing inventory. These systems were managed by the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) until they were superseded by Department-wide SORNs; however, the MMS SORNs were never formally rescinded. Subsequently, upon the dissolution of MMS, responsibility for the six systems of records was transferred to BSEE. This notice formally rescinds the six MMS SORNs.
Cemex Construction Materials Florida (applicant) has applied for an incidental take permit for take of the federally threatened sand skink and blue-tailed mole skink. They have developed a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to support the permit application for the relocation of a 1.3-mile segment of Dude Ranch Road in Polk County, Florida. This notice, required by section 10(c) of the ESA, alerts the public that an incidental take permit application, HCP and environmental assessment related to the application are available for public review and comment.
This notice proposes rates for irrigation facilities operated by BIA for the 2018-2019 year.
This notice announces Secretarial approval of nine amended compacts in the State of CA.
This notice proclaims 581.96 acres as reservation for the Skokomish Indian Tribe of Washington.
This notice proclaims 156.97 acres as reservation for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation of Washington.

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30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	1/17/2018
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other
Notice	no			12/17/2017
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/21/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/11/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/22/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/20/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/1/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/02/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/02/17

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DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1380		
BOR0016163		
3134	ES	
IAFR000454		Must propose now in order to allow charging of new rates on time.
IAFR000459 - 467		RACA holding for letter to be signed.
IAFR000356; 3091	MB	
IAFR000357		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BIA	Trust Acquisition for Wilton Rancheria
	BIA	Notice Cancellation of EIS for Proposed Ft. Mojave Solar Project
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
	BIA	Proclaiming certain lands as Reservation for the Cheyenne River Tribe of SD
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Coquille Indian Tribe
	BIA	Notice of Facilities Operations and Maintenance Funding Formula
	BIA	HEARTH ACT Approval for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
	BIA	2018 Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
	BIA	Notice of Proposed Action and Request for Comments: Updates to Bureau of Indian Affairs Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act
	BLM	Notice of Final Supplementary Rules for Fort Ord National Monument, California

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
This notice announces a trust acquisition that occurred prior to January 20, 2017.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to cancel all work on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Fort Mojave Solar Project, Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, Mohave County, Arizona, and Clark County, Nevada. The notice of intent to prepare the EIS, which included a description of the proposed action, was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2016 (81 FR 21377).
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community leasing regulations under statutory authority specific to the Tribe. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases of Tribal lands without BIA approval, unless the lease is for exploitation of any natural resource.
This notice proclaims 70 acres as reservation for the Cheyenne River Tribe of South Dakota.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes' Tribes Business Site Leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Coquille Indian Tribe leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.
This notice announces consultation with Tribes on updates to the O&M funding formula for BIA owned facilities.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.
Notice publishes the current list of 567 tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the BIA.
This notice is part of the NEPA streamlining effort and seeks input on what CATEXs could be added or modified to improve the process.
The new rules allow off-leash dog walking, provide BLM rangers the authority to assist with pet enforcement in the national monument, and clarify who has the right-of-way among bikers, equestrians, and hikers.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	no			
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Due 01/31/18
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	4/20/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	7/12/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	06/01/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	01/09/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/17/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/29/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/26/17

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30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
IAFR000391; 3090	ES	
IAFR000406		
IAFR000349; 3091	MB	
IAFR000374		
IAFR000424		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000435; 3075	ES	Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000450		
IAFR000451		
IAFR000455		
IAFR000456		
1413		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Application for Withdrawal, Notice of Public Meeting, and Extension of Public Comment Period for Proposed Withdrawal in the Methow Valley; Washington
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment for the OMYA Direct Land Sale Project, California
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Notice of designation of public lands in Garfield County, Colorado, as suitable for lease renewal for agricultural uses
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Non-competitive Direct Sale of the Reversionary Interest in a Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) Patent of Public Land in Clark County, Nevada (N-94498).
	BLM	DRECP Notice of Cancellation of Withdrawal application and Withdrawal proposal and Notice of Termination of EIS for California DRECP.
	BOR	Public Meeting of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
	NPS	U.S. Nomination to the World Heritage List: Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks
1012-0008	ONRR	Collection of Monies Due the Federal Government
	FWS	Orangutan technical (taxonomic) correction

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the Federal Register on 12/10/2016 for approximately 340,079 acres of National Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, Okanagan National Forest. The purpose of the withdrawal is to protect the area while Congress considers legislation to permanently withdraw the lands and to protect the value of ecological and recreational resources of the Methow Valley. This notice announces the action, announces the logistics of a public meeting to be held, and reopens the comment period.
In accordance with the 2011 Settlement Agreement, the BLM is considering a direct sale to OMYA. The lands would be used by OMYA for mining operations.
BLM Colorado is proposing to renew an agricultural lease (COC 54877) to the Carbondale Corporation for 11 acres of irrigated hayfield and 20 acres of non-irrigated rangeland. The most recent lease expired in 2013 and is being considered for renewal.
The Black Mountain Golf and Country Club (BMGCC) applied for a direct sale of the reversionary interest of their existing 140-acre parcel of land. The purpose of the direct sale is to dispose of the reversionary clause in the transfer document which contains these certain restrictions and conditions, thereby, giving fee title to the BMGCC and allowing them to use the land for other purposes.
This notice terminates the temporary segregation from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, and the requirements of applicable law.
Reclamation is announcing the February 14-15, 2018, public meeting of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group Federal advisory committee.
This Notice announces the decision to request that a draft nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for inclusion on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List be prepared.
To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ONRR is proposing to renew an information collection with revisions under 30 CFR part 1218.
When we listed the orangutan in 1970, the scientific community recognized one species (<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>), consisting of two subspecies (<i>P. pygmaeus pygmaeus</i> and <i>P. p. abelii</i>). The original listed entity included all orangutans in the genus <i>Pongo</i> . However, the orangutan has recently been reclassified as belonging to two distinct species: <i>P. pygmaeus</i> and <i>P. abelii</i> . Therefore, we are revising the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to reflect the current scientifically accepted taxonomy and nomenclature of the orangutan. This change is supported by published studies in peer-reviewed journals, and it does not affect the range or endangered status of the orangutan.

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30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	yes	no	no	Other
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	yes	
Notice	no	no	no	Statutory
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/3/17
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/22/17
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	10/24/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/28/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/21/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/29/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1550		The BLM is no longer able to provide 30 days notice from the meeting, as currently scheduled. ORSO will reschedule when the notice clears DOI.
1616		
1692		
1706		***This publication must be published ASAP***
1898		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.
BOR0016425		Must publish on/before 1/29/2018 in order to notify the public 15 days prior to meeting
23628		
	ONRR	Information Collection Expires: 3/31/18
3107	ES	

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RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BIA	Deletion of System of Record Notice (SORN)
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Jicarilla Apache Nation of New Mexico
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Pueblo of Pojoaque
	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Nevada
	BIA	Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2019 or Calendar Year 2019
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
	BLM	Final Supplementary Rules for Public Lands at Bastendorff Beach and the Associated Headlands in Coos County, Oregon

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
This notice, required by the Privacy Act, deletes the system of record for the now-obsolete Information Management System (IMS) that has been replaced by the Document Tracking System (DTS).
This notice proclaims 2 parcels totaling 31,452 acres, as reservation for the Jicarilla Nation of New Mexico.
This notice proclaims 23 contiguous parcels totaling 1,146 acres, as reservation for the Bois Forte Band.
This notice proclaims 323.763 acres, more or less, an addition to the reservation of the Pueblo of Pojoaque in Santa Fe County, New Mexico.
The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California negotiated the First Amended Compact between the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the State of Nevada governing Class III gaming; this notice announces approval of the amended Compact.
In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 1, 2018, deadline for Indian Tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the Tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2019 or calendar year 2019.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.
This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.
These final rules will enable the BLM to continue necessary law enforcement action to protect public health and safety and curtail illegal activity at Bastendorff Beach in Coos County. The interim final supplementary rules, established April 1, 2016, changed the current 14-day stay limit to a 24-hour stay limit, and required campers to move at least 25 air miles from a previously occupied site after 24 hours of camping. Finalizing the new camping limits will help the BLM minimize damage to natural resources, maintain public access for recreational uses, and reduce threats to public health, safety, and property.

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Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	yes	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/18/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/15/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/15/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/16/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/17/17

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DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
IAFR000290; 3024	ES	
IAFR000221		
IAFR000223; 3067	ES	
IAFR000472		
IAFR000476		
IAFR000479		
IAFR000480		
IAFR000481		
1337		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Establish Recreation Fees on Public Lands in Clackamas County
	BLM	Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules for Travel Management on Public Lands in Montrose, Delta, San Miguel and Ouray Counties, Colorado
	BLM	Final Idaho Statewide Supplementary Rules
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, New Mexico
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Amend the Miles City Field Office 2015 Resource Management Plan and to Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment, Montana
	BLM	Notice of Closure, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Project Environmental Impact Statement with a Proposed Plan Amendment to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Notice of Segregation for the Crescent Peak Wind

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
Northwest Oregon District is seeking public comments for establishing new expanded amenity (overnight) and standard amenity (day-use) fees at District recreation sites. The BLM did not have a Resource Advisory Council/Committee to approve any fee changes from 2010 until 2016, and could not carry out this provision of the fee law. In that time, we built several new facilities that were meant to be fee sites to cover operational costs, and we did not have authority to charge fees despite having built new amenities. The fees would range from \$5 for day-use vehicle fees to \$50 for group campsite fees.
The proposed rules would restrict the possession and use of motorized and mechanized vehicles to designated travel routes, implement seasonal closures to protect big game wintering habitat within each travel plan, and restrict pets from within the Ridgway Travel Management planning area.
The supplementary rules will provide for more effective enforcement of recreation-related regulations, improve consistency, and enhance public safety and resource protection. These rules cover hunting blinds, litter, burning or disposal of materials containing metal hardware, public nudity, and motor vehicle use.
A revision to the 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan (RMP) is necessary because a number of changes have occurred in the planning area since its publication. New resource issues have emerged; new resource data are available for consideration; and new policies, guidelines, and laws have been established. The changes are in part due to continuing fluid and solid mineral extraction and energy developments in the area, and new technologies being used to extract those resources.
This notifies the public that BLM-MT plans to amend its Miles City Field Office Resource Management Plan to accommodate a direct sale of the U.S.' reversionary interest in nearly 12 acres of land that it sold to Miles Community College in 1992. The college has used the land for school-related rodeo, agriculture, and recreation activities. With the purchase of the U.S.' reversionary interest, the school can rent out the facilities on the property to third parties for community events.
This Notice announces closures within the Monument on certain holidays over the next two years. If the closures do not occur, scheduled maintenance and cultural practices will be interrupted.
The notice announces the intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project. It also announces the segregation of lands under the 2013 Final Rule for Segregation of Lands for Renewable Energy that allows BLM to temporarily segregate public lands within a wind application area.

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Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	yes	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/11/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	8/8/17
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/20/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/14/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/25/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/14/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/15/2017

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DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1365		
1387		
1486		
1545		
1611		
1624		
1663		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	BLM	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Intent to Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment, and Notification of Public Meeting; Nevada
	BLM	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Bingham County, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed RE Crimson Solar Project, Riverside County, CA
	BLM	Notice of Application-Recordable Disclaimer of Interest-Kanektok River system Alaska
	BLM	Alaska Native Claims Selection - Calista Corporation
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification; Washington County, Utah
	BLM	Alaska Native Claims Selection (Calista 21.03 acres)
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Noncompetitive Sale and Conveyance of Mineral Interests of Public Land in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona
	BLM	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
In accordance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Secretary of the Interior has approved a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) petition/application for withdrawal of approximately 613,511 acres of Federal land in Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing Counties, Nevada, for up to 4 years from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The petition/application also requests withdrawal of 68,804 acres of Federal land in the Dixie Valley Training Area from the mineral leasing laws (not currently withdrawn from these laws under Section 3016 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2000 (NDAA 2000), to maintain the current environmental baseline, relative to mineral exploration and development for land management evaluation purposes, subject to valid existing rights.
Claire Rich Blakely has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest from the United States on behalf of LaRue J. Rich and Violet B. Rich. The application affects an approximately 56- acre unsurveyed parcel of land in Bingham County, Idaho. This notice is intended to inform the public of the pending application and of the opportunity for comment.
The applicant, Sonoran West Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Recurrent Energy LLC, has requested a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a maximum 350 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic facility and necessary ancillary facilities, including battery storage, project substations, access roads, operations and maintenance buildings, and lay down areas. The Project area is approximately 2,700 acres of BLM-administered lands in eastern Riverside County, California.
BLM received an application from the State of Alaska for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) for lands underlying the Kanektok River System, including Pegati and Kagati Lakes, 94 river miles, and 2,304 acres.
BLM is providing constructive notice for conveyance of surface estate to Alaska Native regional corporation, Calista Corporation, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The U.S. retains subsurface.
This NORA will classify and segregate 52.15 acres of public land in Washington County, Utah, for the purpose of leasing and subsequently patenting the land to the City of Santa Clara for the use of a public park.
BLM is providing constructive notice to convey surface/subsurface estate to Calista Corp. under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).
BLM Phoenix District received a request from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) for the transfer of 3,385.54 acres at not less than appraised fair market value. The land is split into 2 parcels. The lands are on the western and southern margins of the GRIC Reservation.
This is to initiate the Call for Nominations for three vacancies coming up in March 2018.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/9/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/3/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/31/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/13/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/17/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/18/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1699		
1721		
1765		
1780		
1791		
1815		
1824		
1804		
1833		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
	NPS	Public Input Request: Development of a Right-of-Way Permit for Gates of the Arctic National Preserve as part of the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project, Alaska
	NPS	MOJA Draft EIS Water Resources Mgmt., Plan
	NPS	Request for Comments on: National Register Bulletin 38
	NPS	NOA of Draft EIS and Mgt. Plan for Saline Valley Warm Springs-DEVA
	NPS	NIC: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT (N2883)
	FWS	Hurricane Sandy Coastal Barrier Resources System Remapping Project
	FWS	AEP American burying beetle LEHCP
	FWS	City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan
1029-0047	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0047

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
As part of the environmental and economic analysis required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, NPS seeks public input for the purposes of development of a route and terms and conditions for the issuance of a right-of-way (ROW) permit for access across the Kobuk River unit of Gates of the Arctic National Preserve in support of the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project.
The purpose of the DEIS for a Management Plan for Developed Water Sources is to provide a comprehensive strategy and water management techniques to ensure the preservation of wildlife, historic, wilderness, and recreation values.
The NPS is soliciting written comments from its tribal, national, state, and local historic preservation partners, NPS regional offices and parks, other Federal agencies, and the public at large regarding the updated draft FAQs noted above.
The purpose of the plan/DEIS is to develop a management strategy for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area that will complement DEVA GMP. This plan/DEIS is being developed in cooperation with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Inyo County, and the BLM.
A Notice of Inventory Completion is published when a museum or Federal agency has made a determination of cultural affiliation for Native American human remains and associated funerary objects under their possession or control.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared proposed digital boundaries for the first batch of Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) units included in the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project. The first batch includes proposed CBRS boundaries for Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey (covering six percent of the total existing CBRS acreage). The notice announces the availability of the proposed boundaries for a 120-day public comment period and also advises of upcoming public meetings that will be held via webcast and teleconference. A public review for the other five states (Connecticut, Maryland, New York (Long Island), Rhode Island, and Virginia) is planned for late 2018.
This notice, required by section 10(c) of the ESA, alerts the public that an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) has been received, and the associated low-effect habitat conservation plan and NEPA categorical exclusion are available for public review and comment. American Electric Power (applicant) has requested an ITP for take of the endangered American burying beetle incidental to the rebuilding of the Fixico Point of Delivery (POD) to Weleetka transmission line in Hughes, Okfuskee, and Seminole Counties, Oklahoma.
The US Fish and Wildlife Service must publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register for the City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan and final Environmental Impact Statement. These are final documents that must be made available to the public before we can finish the permitting process.
30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 816 & 817, Permanent Program Performance Standards

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Notice				
Notice				3/31/2018
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other (1/26/2017)
Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	9/26/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	8/24/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/22/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	1/2/2018
late January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/20/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/14/2017
late January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
23231		Has anyone followed with the AK Rep?
23081		
23585		
24195		
24745		Must publish by February 6, 2018.
3088	ES	
3149	ES	Timely action on the permit application
3170	ES	
		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1029-0039	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0039
1029-0083	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0083
1029-0059	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0059
1029-0129	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0129
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Oil and Gas, or Geothermal Resources: Transfers and Assignments
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Onshore Oil and Gas Operations and Production
	BLM	Notice of information and request for comment (60 day notice) Agency Information Collection Activities; Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests
	BLM	Notice of Information Collection; Request for Comment (1004-0165) (60 day notice)

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 784, Underground Mining - Reclamation and Operations Plans
30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 955, Federal Blaster Certifications (Form OSM-74)
30-day information collection notice for State and Tribal Grants (Forms OSM-47, -49, -51)
30-day information collection notice for Nominations for Reclamation Awards
In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.
The Paperwork Reduction Act requires a valid control number from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information. A control number is valid for three years at most. Publication of this document is an urgently necessary step in asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew control number 1004-0169. This control number enables the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to regulate the use and occupancy of unpatented hardrock mining claims.
30-Day Notice for Control Number 1004-0137
The BLM requests renewal of OMB control number 1004-0153, which enables the BLM to process applications by owners of surface estates (i.e., individuals, businesses, or state, local, or tribal governments) to obtain title to underlying Federally-owned mineral estates.
In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	6/30/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	6/30/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/18/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18
		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18
		Information Collection Expires: 6/30/18
		Information Collection Expires: 6/30/18
1852		
1857		
1870		
1880		
1882		

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1018-New	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting for the Northwest Oregon Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Subcommittee Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting, Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings: Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and its Planning and Recreation Subcommittees, Nevada
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings, Boise District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting - Twin Falls District RAC, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting, Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council Meeting
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings, Southwest Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Meetings of the Dumont Dunes Subgroup of the California Desert District Advisory Council

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Summary
<p>The notice provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Service’s intention to seek Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a new information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA). Both contests predate the PRA and require clearance. A valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) is an annual licensing requirement for all migratory bird hunters. Artwork for the stamp is chosen by a panel of judges during an annual art contest. The Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp contests encourage the public to engage in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s conservation mission. In support of directives in SO 3347, the Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp programs actively engage Americans of all ages to better understand the biological requirements and conservation management of waterfowl and wetlands. Contestants portray their understanding of the anatomy and ecology of waterfowl as well as the importance of wildlife conservation and the waterfowl hunting heritage in order to successfully compete. Contest entry forms are necessary to enable the Service to track contestants’ artwork during the contest judging process, verify age and unique artwork requirements, and return artwork.</p>
Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018
Meeting on January 18 and 19, 2018
Meeting on January 18.
The Southeast Oregon RAC will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, and Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Meetings on January 11.
two meetings - first on 01/31/18; notice must publish NLT 12/29/17 to meet FACA advance notice requirement (and account for Federal holidays)
FACA required notice of Twin Falls RAC meeting on January 24, 2018.
Announces quarterly meeting of Idaho Fall District RAC
This meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2018.
Meeting dates are March 24, 2018, and September 18, 2018.

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	yes	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/20/17
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	11/20/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017

Draft
30-day Projection for Wednesday January 3, 2017

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
3163	ABHC	
1798		Must publish by 1/22/17 to provide 30 days notice.
1832		Must publish early January for 15 days notice.
1837		Must publish early January for 15 days notice.
1847		Must publish by 1/15 to provide 15 days notice.
1861		The BLM is no longer able to provide 15 days notice.
1874		Must publish 1/16 to provide 15 days notice.
1813		Must publish early January to provide 15 days notice.
1828		Must publish early January to provide 15 days notice of meeting on 1/23/18.
1889		
1884		

To: Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Smethers, Lacey[lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov]; Roslyn Sellars[roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]; Irwin, Thomas[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]; Tasha Robbins[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Rees, Gareth
Sent: 2018-01-05T11:20:36-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Meeting
Received: 2018-01-05T11:20:43-05:00

Hi All,
I need to schedule this meeting for Friday January 12 at 10am. Please let me know if you can make this work.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Willens, Todd** <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 3:32 PM
Subject: Meeting
To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gulac, Catherine" <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>

Gareth,
Can you set up a meeting next week with David to discuss MBTA (Migratory Bird).

Participants should be:

IOS: Willens, Magallenes
SOL: Navarro, Jorjani, Lawkowski; Goeken
FWS: Sheehan, Ford
ASFWP: Larrabee, Skipwith

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202 208 6291

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

To: Rees, Gareth[gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov]
From: Robbins, Tasha
Sent: 2018-01-05T11:23:11-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting
Received: 2018-01-05T11:23:18-05:00

Hi Gareth,
Jason is scheduled to be on leave January 11 and 12.

Thanks,

Tasha

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 11:20 AM, Rees, Gareth <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi All,
I need to schedule this meeting for Friday January 12 at 10am. Please let me know if you can make this work.

Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Willens, Todd** <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
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Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202 208 6291

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Tel: 202-208-6291

Fax: 202-208-1873

Cell: 202-957-8299

--

Tasha L. Robbins
Executive Assistant
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3160
202-208-4416

Tasha_L_Robbins@ios.doi.gov

To: Rees, Gareth[gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Smethers, Lacey[lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov]; Roslyn Sellars[roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]; Irwin, Thomas[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]; Tasha Robbins[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Caminiti, Mariagrazia
Sent: 2018-01-05T11:27:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting
Received: 2018-01-05T11:28:43-05:00

works for our 4 folks.mg

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 11:20 AM, Rees, Gareth <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Hi All,
>
> I need to schedule this meeting for Friday January 12 at 10am. Please let
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> Thanks
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> ----- Forwarded message -----
> From: Willens, Todd <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
> Date: Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 3:32 PM
> Subject: Meeting
> To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
> Cc: "Gulac, Catherine" <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>
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> SOL: Navarro, Jorjani, Lawkowski; Goeken
> FWS: Sheehan, Ford
> ASFWP: Larrabee, Skipwith
>
>
>
> Todd Willens
> Assistant Deputy Secretary
> U.S. Department of the Interior
> 1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116
> Washington, DC 20240
> office: 202-208-6291
>
> NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom
> of Information Act.
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>
>
> --
>
> Gareth C. Rees

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> Office to the Deputy Secretary
>
> U.S. Department of the Interior
>
> Tel: 202-208-6291
>
> Fax: 202-208-1873
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> Cell: 202-957-8299
>
>
>

--
Marigrace Caminiti

Executive Assistant to the Solicitor

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 6352

Washington, DC 20240

202-208-4423 - main number

202-208-3111 - direct

202-208-5584 - fax

202-528-0486 or 202-359-2949 -cell/wcell

AA

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To: Caminiti, Mariagrazia[mariagrace.caminiti@sol.doi.gov]
Cc: Rees, Gareth[gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov]; Roslyn Sellars[roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]; Irwin, Thomas[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]; Tasha Robbins[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
From: Smethers, Lacey
Sent: 2018-01-05T11:29:24-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Meeting
Received: 2018-01-05T11:29:50-05:00

Downey is free at that time

Lacey Smethers
Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 11:27 AM, Caminiti, Mariagrazia <mariagrace.caminiti@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

works for our 4 folks.mg

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 11:20 AM, Rees, Gareth <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Hi All,

>

> I need to schedule this meeting for Friday January 12 at 10am. Please let
> me know if you can make this work.

>

> Thanks

>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> From: Willens, Todd <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

> Date: Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 3:32 PM

> Subject: Meeting

> To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

> Cc: "Gulac, Catherine" <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>

>

>

> Gareth,

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> Participants should be:

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> SOL: Navarro, Jorjani, Lawkowski; Goeken

> FWS: Sheehan, Ford

> ASFWP: Larrabee, Skipwith

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>
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> Todd Willens
> Assistant Deputy Secretary
> U.S. Department of the Interior
> 1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116
> Washington, DC 20240
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> Gareth C. Rees
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> Office to the Deputy Secretary
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> U.S. Department of the Interior
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> Tel: 202-208-6291
>
> Fax: 202-208-1873
>
> Cell: 202-957-8299
>
>
>

--
Marigrace Caminiti

Executive Assistant to the Solicitor

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 6352

Washington, DC 20240

202-208-4423 - main number

202-208-3111 - direct

202-208-5584 - fax

202-528-0486 or 202-359-2949 -cell/wcell

^^

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To: Davis, Landon[ldavis@osmre.gov]
From: Aurelia Skipwith
Sent: 2018-01-05T12:43:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: ESA/Species Specific Protective Measures
Received: 2018-01-05T12:43:22-05:00

I'm out of the office, but will be back on Monday. I can be reached by phone, if that works. Or we can meet on Monday.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-5837

On Jan 4, 2018, at 9:19 AM, Davis, Landon <ldavis@osmre.gov> wrote:

Are you available tomorrow afternoon?

To: Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]
From: Davis, Landon
Sent: 2018-01-05T12:44:30-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: ESA/Species Specific Protective Measures
Received: 2018-01-05T12:44:39-05:00

Let's meet up on Monday. Have a great weekend!

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 12:43 PM, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I'm out of the office, but will be back on Monday. I can be reached by phone, if that works.
Or we can meet on Monday.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-5837

On Jan 4, 2018, at 9:19 AM, Davis, Landon <ldavis@osmre.gov> wrote:

Are you available tomorrow afternoon?

To: Davis, Landon[ldavis@osmre.gov]
From: Skipwith, Aurelia
Sent: 2018-01-05T13:00:06-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: ESA/Species Specific Protective Measures
Received: 2018-01-05T13:00:28-05:00

You too!

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 12:44 PM, Davis, Landon <ldavis@osmre.gov> wrote:

Let's meet up on Monday. Have a great weekend!

On Fri, Jan 5, 2018 at 12:43 PM, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Or we can meet on Monday.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-5837

On Jan 4, 2018, at 9:19 AM, Davis, Landon <ldavis@osmre.gov> wrote:

Are you available tomorrow afternoon?

To: Tasha Robbins[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Thomas Irwin[thomas_irwin@fws.gov]; Thomas Garcia[thomas_garcia@nps.gov]
From: Sellars, Roslyn
Sent: 2018-01-05T13:49:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Briefing paper for Jason Larrabee for 1/4 Meeting with NextEra Energy
Received: 2018-01-05T13:49:51-05:00
[NextEra Energy.Briefing Paper.01.03.2018.FINAL.docx](#)

Tasha

We apologize for the delayed submission.

Roslyn

INFORMATION FOR PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

DATE: January 3, 2018
FROM: Paul Souza, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
SUBJECT: NextEra Energy and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

OVERVIEW

NextEra Energy has requested a meeting to discuss its wind energy facilities and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. NextEra Energy has not secured permits for incidental take of eagles at its wind farms, and does not intend on doing so. Instead, NextEra Energy is proposing an alternative approach for mitigating the impact of its wind power activities on eagle populations. This proposal is likely to include a payment per megawatt of energy generated at its facilities to compensate for eagle take. The payment will be directed to eagle conservation activities, new science and improved habitat for eagles in impacted regions. In exchange, NextEra Energy would like a commitment from the government to use prosecutorial discretion and not bring forth law enforcement actions if there is unintentional take of eagles at its facilities. Adopting this approach would be a significant departure from the direction given by the previous administration.

BACKGROUND

NextEra Energy is a multi-national energy company that owns and operates several large-scale wind energy facilities across the U.S., including the Altamont Pass in California. Since 2010, Service staff have met with NextEra Energy biologists, managers and legal counsel to discuss eagle take at its facilities across multiple regions and the need for a take permit under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. While the Service's Migratory Birds program manages the Act, DOJ became involved in 2016 and has taken the lead on this issue since early 2017. DOJ is considering prosecuting the company for violations under the Act at six wind power facilities located in Arizona, Michigan, Colorado and California.

CURRENT STATUS

DOJ's Environmental Crimes and Natural Resources Division continues to communicate potential resolutions with NextEra Energy senior management and counsel. While they remain at odds over the interpretation of the legal definition of "take" under the Act, it should be noted that DOJ has not filed charges against NextEra Energy. NextEra Energy presented this mitigation approach to DOJ in October 2017. The company continues to monitor eagle take at its facilities.

The Service remains committed to finding viable solutions that enable continued operations of the wind power facilities while providing adequate protections for eagle populations in impacted regions.

NEXT STEPS

If requested, Service staff stand ready to provide information and feedback on any formal proposals submitted by NextEra Energy on this issue. The Regional Directors from impacted Service regions (Regions 2, 3, 6 and 8), and Jerome Ford, Assistant Director of Migratory Birds, can be available to discuss possible options, and potential pros and cons, when needed.

To: tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov[tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov];
Thomas_Garcia@nps.gov[Thomas_Garcia@nps.gov]
From: DTS@fws.gov
Sent: 2018-01-05T13:58:24-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DTS Assignment--60-day FRN: 1018-New, "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests"
Received: 2018-01-05T13:58:32-05:00

Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert!

Your office (FW) has a task assigned.

Please log in to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address:
<https://dts.fws.gov/dts/preLogin.do?officeId=639> and review Document Control Number (DCN)**
FR00003163.

To move the document to the next office in the routing process, enter your surname information for your office's task and save the record.

Document Subject: 60-day FRN: 1018-New, "Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests"
Synopsis: Program POC: Suzanne Fellows
Service ICCO: Madonna Baucum
Action Required: 3-Surname
Assigned By Office: CCU User: Donnise Hancock

Thank you.

To: Thorson, Robyn[robyn_thorson@fws.gov]
Cc: Jim Kurth[Jim_Kurth@fws.gov]; Theresa Rabot[theresa_rabot@fws.gov]; Gary Frazer[Gary_Frazer@fws.gov]
From: Skipwith, Aurelia
Sent: 2018-01-05T14:16:25-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Millenum Bulk Terminal
Received: 2018-01-05T14:16:52-05:00

This is helpful. Thank you, Robyn.

Aurelia Skipwith

Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 7:11 PM, Thorson, Robyn <robyn_thorson@fws.gov> wrote:

FWS review of this project is in abeyance because the State of Washington has denied the permits to move ahead. In response, the company sued the State. About an hour ago I forwarded to you an E&E news clip about Washington's denial of permits and the company's lawsuit, as FYI only.

FWS (and NOAA) do not have a timeline to receive a BA from the Corps. We checked with the Corps of Engineers yesterday to confirm that this project is not currently under review, and they are similarly waiting for a substantially revised project description to remove/accommodate the State's objections.

FWS has not identified any parts of this project that need to be changed in order to address bull trout or bull trout critical habitat. We have cooperated with the project proponent and with the Corps of Engineers in preparing the project for review, with agreement that there will be formal ESA Section 7 consultation on both the species and critical habitat. Past discussion over whether the project is likely/not likely to adversely affect CH is no longer relevant given the agreement on formal consultation.

With the project status "on hold" it's unclear what additional information might be helpful to address your interests at this time, but just let us know. We welcome your interest in Pacific Northwest issues.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

On Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 4:08 PM, Skipwith, Aurelia <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Robyn,

Okay. What parts of the project need to be changed that effect the bull-trout and their habitat (or river)? When do you anticipate the Corps will submit a BA? Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Thorson, Robyn <robyn_thorson@fws.gov> wrote:

Jim Kurth forwarded your request for information about the status of the FWS consultation (BiOp) for the Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Washington State (Longview). FWS consultation is for bull trout and bull trout critical habitat.

On September 26, 2017, the State of Washington (Department of Ecology) denied (with prejudice) the Applicant's request for a Clean Water Act certification, and on October 24 the State's Department of Natural Resources denied the Applicant's request to build improvements on the Aquatic Land Lease. It is our understanding that substantial revision to the project would be needed before resubmitting an application, and the FWS bull trout and critical habitat consultation would be based on the revised project. We are waiting for the Corps to revise the project plan and Biological Assessment in order the address the state permit needs -- Section 7 consultation will be initiated when the Service receives a complete BA that reflects updates to the proposed action.

Meanwhile, we continue to work with the Corps to address disagreement over the effects

determination for the (previously) proposed action on designated bull trout critical habitat. We did a lot of work on the previous proposal and we'll have that for when consultation is initiated.

I am copying Gary Frazer to keep him apprised of this important energy project. We would be glad to provide additional information or discuss this on the phone -- basically we're waiting for a revised proposal before the clock starts to toll on the BiOp.

Robyn

Robyn Thorson
Regional Director, Pacific Region One
Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii & Pacific Islands
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
503.231.6119

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kurth, Jim** <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Millenum Bulk Terminal
To: Robyn Thorson <Robyn_Thorson@fws.gov>, Theresa Rabot <theresa_rabot@fws.gov>

Can you provide an update to Aurelia, copying me? Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Skipwith, Aurelia** <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 4:29 PM
Subject: Millenum Bulk Terminal
To: "James W. Kurth" <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Cc: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

Jim,

I hope you are having a wonderful weekend.

What's the status and expected finalization of the BiOp for this project? Thank you.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208 5837

To: Megan Apgar[megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Michael Use This One Reynolds[Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov]; Sue Masica[Sue_Masica@nps.gov]; Lena McDowall[Lena_McDowall@nps.gov]; Fink, Wendy[wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov]; Jason Larrabee[jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mendelson, Lisa
Sent: 2018-01-05T15:23:19-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: NPS 30 day review
Received: 2018-01-05T15:24:10-05:00
[NPS response Federal Register 30 day projections for Wednesday, 01-03-2018-to Reg Contacts.xlsx](#)

Attached please find the updates provided by the NPS to the list we were asked to review.

Lisa Mendelson
(A) Chief of Staff, National Park Service
202 208 3818 main office + 202 513 7181 direct +202 297 1338 cell

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title
1004-AE53	BLM	Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Rescission or Revision of Certain Requirements
1014-AA39	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the OCS—Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions
1012-AA22	ONRR	Repeal of Regulatory Amendment and Restoration of ONRR's Former Regulatory Language Governing Service of Official Correspondence
1012-AA23	ONRR	Inflation Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalties for Calendar Year 2018
1018-AY05	FWS	Removing Eastern Puma (=Cougar) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
1018-BA76	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
1010-AD99	BOEM	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf — Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments

Summary

This proposed rule would revise the 2016 final rule to reduce unnecessary compliance burdens associated with the 2016 final rule and would re-establish longstanding requirements that the 2016 final rule replaced.

BSEE is proposing to revise existing regulations for well control and blowout preventer systems. This proposed rule would revise regulations addressing well design, well control, casing, cementing, real-time monitoring, and subsea containment. These revisions would include regulations pertaining to offshore oil and gas drilling, completions, workovers, and decommissioning in accordance with Executive and Secretarial Orders to ensure safety and environmental protection, while reducing certain regulatory burdens imposed under the existing regulations. The proposed regulations would also address various issues that were identified during the implementation of the 2016 final rulemaking on these issues.

ONRR is publishing this rule to repeal a 2013 direct final rule and restore the former regulatory language governing service of official correspondence.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue publishes this direct final rule to increase our maximum civil monetary penalty rates for inflation occurring between October 2016 and October 2017.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing this subspecies from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to extinction. There is no evidence of the existence of either an extant reproducing population or any individuals of the eastern puma subspecies, and that, for various reasons, it is highly unlikely that an eastern puma population could remain undetected since the last confirmed sighting in 1938. This rule finalizes the proposal to delist the eastern puma on the basis of extinction. The assessment of the eastern puma's current status, completed in January 2011, found no evidence of the existence of either an extant population of, or individual eastern pumas, and concluded that the subspecies should be considered extinct.

FWS and the U.S. Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) will revise the regulations for seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means for the taking of fish and shellfish for subsistence uses in Alaska during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 regulatory seasons. The Federal Subsistence Board will also address customary and traditional use determinations for fish and shellfish.

The rule adjusts the level of the maximum civil monetary penalties contained in the BOEM regulations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and Office of Management and Budget guidance.

Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	yes	
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory; publication by 1/15/2018
Final Rule	yes	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	yes	yes	no	1/12/2018

Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)
mid January	@ OMB for E.O. 12866 Review	11/1/2017
early February	@ OMB for E.O. 12866 review	12/6/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/28/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	01/02/18
mid January	Pending bureau clearance	12/27/17

DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1806		Interagency review comments were due by 11/27/2017.
BSE0000925		Uploaded to ROCIS 12/07/2017. E.O. 12866 comments due 1/05/2017.
	ONRR	This rule is on the Department's 90-day list for publication before year end. Timing is not critical, other than to meet the Department's internally-set deadline.
	ONRR	This rule is on the Department's 90-day list for publication by January 15, 2018. Timing is critical so as to meet the Congressional deadline according to the FCPIA provisions of 2015 and OMB guidance.
3004	ES	
3176	SM	

1014-AA36	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-156-FOR]
	OSMRE	Ohio Regulatory Program [OH-255-FOR]
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-078-For]
	OSMRE	Kentucky Regulatory Program [KY-256-FOR]
1018-BB22	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—Applicability and Scope; Tongass National Forest Submerged Lands
1024-AE31	NPS	Rocky Mountain National Park; Bicycling
1024-AD40	NPS	Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment
1024-AE42	NPS	Rights of Way; Removal of Reference to Outdated Environmental Criteria
1018-AW04	FWS	Removing Eureka Valley Evening-Primrose (<i>Oenothera avita</i> ssp. <i>eurekensis</i>) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants, and Reclassifying Eureka Dune Grass (<i>Swallenia alexandrae</i>) from Endangered to Threatened

This Direct final rule adjusts the level of the maximum civil monetary penalty contained in the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. The civil penalty inflation adjustment, using a 1.02041 multiplier, accounts for one year of inflation spanning October 2016 to October 2017.

State submitted amendments to address requirements from 30 CFR 938.16, concerning permit denials for repeat violators.

State submitted regulations to compel State agencies to review administrative rules every five years, and establish several non-substantive procedural rules.

Clarifying that the venue for appeals of Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) decisions resides in the Circuit Court of the county in which the agency maintains its principal office.

Approval of new bonding program regulations.

The U.S. District Court for Alaska, in an October 17, 2011, order, enjoined the United States “to promptly initiate regulatory proceedings for the purpose of implementing the subsistence provisions in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) with respect to submerged public lands within Tongass National Forest,” and directed entry of judgment. To comply with the order, the Federal Subsistence Board (DOI/FWS and USDA/Forest Service, joint rulemaking) published a proposed rule to identify those submerged lands within the Tongass that did not pass to the State of Alaska at Statehood and therefore are subject to the subsistence provisions of ANILCA. DOI/FWS and USDA/Forest Service will now finalize the proposed rule.

This rule would authorize and allow for management of bicycling on a 2-mile segment of the East Shore trail within Rocky Mountain National Park. The rule is necessary because the National Park Service general regulation at 36 CFR 4.30 requires promulgation of a special regulation to authorize bicycling on trails outside of developed areas.

This rule revises DOI regulations implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to provide for annual adjustments of civil penalties to account for inflation under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 and OMB guidance.

This rule removes and outdated reference to a document establishing environment criteria for electric transmissions lines that is no longer used by the NPS to evaluate applications for right-of-way permits

This is a final determination on our proposal to delist Eureka Valley evening-primrose and Eureka dune grass. We will delist Eureka Valley evening-primrose and reclassify to threatened the Eureka dune grass. These plants occur in Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, California

Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Final Rule	no	yes	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory, 1/15/2018
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Other

mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/6/2017
mid January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	11/17/17
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance (so that final clearance from OES can proceed)	12/15/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/15/17
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/21/2017

		BSEE is promulgating this 2018 inflation adjustment for civil penalties as a final rule pursuant to the provisions of the FCPIA of 2015 and OMB guidance.
	SM	
NPS0024625		
3117	ES	Secretarial Priority 12/30/2017

1018-BC05	FWS	Civil Penalties; 2018 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties
1018-BB40	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2017–18 Season
	BIA	Tribal Transportation Program: Delay of Compliance Date
	FWS	Texas hornshell final listing rule
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-082-For
1018-BB76	FWS	Removing the Monito Gecko from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
1024-AD93	NPS	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area -- Off-Road Vehicle Use
	OSMRE	Montana Regulatory Program [MT-036-FOR]

In accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Inflation Adjustment Act) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, this final rule adjusts for inflation the statutory civil monetary penalties that may be assessed for violations of Service-administered statutes and their implementing regulations. We are required to adjust civil monetary penalties annually for inflation according to a formula specified in the Inflation Adjustment Act. This rule replaces the previously issued amounts with the updated amounts after using the 2018 inflation adjustment multiplier provided in the OMB guidance.

This rule makes final special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and ceded lands for the 2017–18 migratory bird hunting season.

This final rule confirms the effective date of the interim final rule that pushed the compliance deadline for Tribes to provide certain road inventory information until 2019.

This final determination would list the Texas hornshell as an endangered species. The Texas hornshell is a freshwater mussel in New Mexico and Texas that was proposed as an endangered species on August 10, 2016. We reopened the comment period in May 2017 to hold public hearings in Laredo, Texas, and Carlsbad, New Mexico. We published a 6-month extension to the final determination on August 10, 2017 to gather more information about the species' status in Mexico. We have received information that the populations in Mexican Gulf Coastal streams are not the same species as Texas hornshell. Additionally, survey results from the Rio Salado basin (tributary system to the Rio Grande in Mexico) corroborated our assumption that the species has been extirpated from that basin.

Alabama is proposing revisions to its program to raise revenues sufficient to fund the Alabama Surface Mining Commission's share of costs to administer their coal program.

We propose to remove the Monito gecko from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. This determination is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information, which indicates that the threats to this species have been eliminated or reduced to the point that the species no longer meets the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species under the ESA. We seek information, data, and comments from the public regarding this proposal to delist the Monito gecko, and on the draft post-delisting monitoring plan.

The rule would authorize off-road vehicle use, designate routes and areas, and establish criteria for operation of off-road vehicles. This rule is required by the terms of a 2008 court-approved settlement agreement between the NPS and environmental groups. If this rule is not issued, the plaintiffs could re-litigate their claims and a court could require the NPS to stop all off-road vehicle use at the Recreation Area.

Adoption of regulations related to in-situ coal gasification

Final Rule	no	no	no	Statutory; publication by 1/15/2018
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Other
Final Rule	no	no	no	
Final Rule	yes	no	no	Judicial (2/10/2018)
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	yes	no	no	
Proposed Rule	yes	no	yes	Other
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory

mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/21/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/28/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/21/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/19/17
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/29/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/11/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	

3172	LE	We are awaiting final OMB guidance.
3175	MB	This is a final rule for the 2017–18 hunting season on tribal lands. An interim rule is in place until this final rule publishes.
IAFR000486		
3021	ES	
3133	ES	
NPS0023641		

1018-BB73	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations
1018-BC06	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska; 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish
	OSMRE	Alabama Regulatory Program [AL-081-For
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania AMLR Plan [PA-165-FOR]
	OSMRE	Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-166-FOR]
	OSMRE	Arkansas Regulatory Program [AR-040-FOR]
1018-BB96	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Island Marble Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat
1018-BC70	FWS	Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2018 Season
	BIA	Education Contracts under Johnson O'Malley
1018-BC92	FWS	Geological and Geophysical Exploration of the Coastal Plain, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; Exploration Plans; Application Requirements
	BOR	Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

To fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposal earlier in 2017 to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018–19 hunting season. This supplement to that proposed rule provides the Flyway Council recommendations from their August meetings, the Service response to those recommendations, and the proposed frameworks for the 2018–19 migratory bird hunting seasons.

FWS and the U.S. Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) will revise the regulations for seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means for the taking of fish and shellfish for subsistence uses in Alaska during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 regulatory seasons. The Federal Subsistence Board will also address customary and traditional use determinations for fish and shellfish and rural determinations.

Alabama is proposing revisions to its program to allow the Alabama Surface Mining Commission to revise its current permit fee collection procedures from the term of the mine permit to enable the collection of permit fees over the entire life of the mine.

Pennsylvania is proposing to modify its AMLR Plan by adding a new amendment to allow the state Department of Environmental Protection to administer a State Emergency Program under Title IV of SMCRA.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly recently amended its Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act (BMSCLA), to include language clarifying the circumstances where a finding of presumptive evidence of pollution is warranted under the Commonwealth's Clean Streams Law.

Arkansas is withdrawing its previously submitted amendment in response to an OSMRE letter sent to the state in accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(c). Arkansas will submit a new proposed amendment after working with OSMRE to address deficiencies found during OSMRE's review of the submittal.

This action proposes to list the island marble butterfly, endemic to the San Juan Islands in Washington State, as an endangered species under the ESA and proposes a critical habitat designation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) is proposing migratory bird subsistence harvest regulations in Alaska for the 2018 season.

This rule would update the eligibility requirements for benefits received by individuals under JOM contracts to eliminate the requirement for a certain blood quantum, and instead rely on Tribal membership status.

The proposed rule would amend the regulations that restrict the dates when an application may be submitted for a permit for a geological and geophysical exploration plan on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lands described in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The proposed Federal action for this Final EIS proposes to plan, design, and construct a regional water system in accordance with the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act, consisting of water diversion from the Rio Grande and water treatment facilities on the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, along with storage tanks and transmission/distribution pipelines.

Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	Statutory
Proposed Rule	yes	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	no	no	no	
Proposed Rule	yes	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	

mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/20/2017
mid January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/4/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/13/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	PendingSolicitor clearance	
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/262017

3173	MB	
	SM	
3049	ES	
3155	MB	
IAFR000485		
SEN 6553	NWRS	
BOR0016095		

	NPS	Notice of Adoption and Recirculation of the USACE's EIS for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Creek Management Project at GATE
	BOR	NOA Supplemental Draft EIS Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant/Keechelus Reservoir-to-Kachess Reservoir Conveyance (K Projects)
	FWS	Notice of Availability for SBSP Restoration Project, Phase 2, at Eden Landing, dEIS/EIR
	BIA	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic EIS for the Proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Former Bennett Freeze Area within Coconino County, Arizona
	BLM	Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Chapita Wells Natural Gas Infill Project, Uintah County, Utah
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare Monument Management Plans for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek and Shash Jaa Units and associated Environmental Impact Statement, Utah
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included

This Notice is advising the public and interested agencies that NPS is adopting the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps of Engineers) September 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Risk Management Plan.

The SDEIS addresses the impacts associated with the K Projects by expanding on the analysis conducted in the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

The draft EIS/EIR analyzes the proposed restoration of salt ponds at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Alameda County, California. The Eden Landing Ecological Reserve is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Phase 2, Eden Landing project involves the restoration and/or enhancement of 2,270 acres of tidal wetlands and managed pond habitats in the South San Francisco Bay while simultaneously providing flood risk management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation. The draft EIS/EIR evaluates four alternatives; the No Action Alternative, and three Action Alternatives.

BIA, in cooperation with the Navajo Nation, intends to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential environmental impacts for the proposed Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). The FBFA encompasses 1.6 million acres in the northeast corner of Arizona on the Navajo Nation Reservation.

This notice will initiate a 45-day public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS analyzes EOG Resources Inc's (EOG) proposal to further develop their valid existing leases in the existing Greater Chapita Wells area.

The BLM Canyon Country District Office, Moab, Utah intends to prepare a Monument Management Plan (MMP) for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit and an associated EIS.

Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA notice				
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	no	yes	no	
NEPA Notice	no	no	no	Other
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	

early January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/12/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/18/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/26/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/4/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/20/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017

22346		
BOR0015836		
3126	NWRS	
IAFR000422	NWRS	Tribe requesting publication ASAP
1514		BLM needs to address OS comments prior to clearance; have revised materials been provided to Regs as of 12/20? Regs is unaware of any documents or issues sent back. Please email Chandra Little and cc Charles Yudson regarding this notice. Regs needs additional materials for clearance as of 1/2/2018.
1893		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.
1894		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.

	BIA	NOA: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ho-Chunk Nation Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project, City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin
	BIA	FONSI for NGS Extension Lease
	BIA	EIS Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement in Lane County, Oregon
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Riley Ridge to Natrona Project, Wyoming
	BLM	Notice of Availability: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Sonoran Valley Parkway Project, AZ
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Blue Valley Land Exchange, Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado
	BLM	NOA of Draft SEIS for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for GMT2, NPR-A
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Lummi Nation Code of Laws Trust
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
	BIA	Chickasaw Nation Amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance
	BIA	Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance

This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, with the City of Beloit (City), Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Ho-Chunk Nation (Nation), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serving as cooperating agencies, intends to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the EPA for the Ho-Chunk Nation Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project, City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin (Proposed Project). This notice also announces that the DEIS is now available for public review and that a public hearing will be held to receive comments on the DEIS.

This notice announces a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA for the Navajo Generating Station Extension Lease, Coconino County, Arizona.

NOI to Prepare an EIS for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Cathedral City Fee-to-Trust Casino Project, Cathedral City, Riverside County, California.

The BLM, through this Notice of Intent, will be implementing the analysis process for the Hult Reservoir and Dam Safety Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM will consider alternatives that meet the purpose of the project to reduce the risk of infrastructure failure at Hult Dam from excessive water and sediment loading, within the scope of what BLM could reasonably fund and within the scope of the BLM's jurisdiction.

Denbury Green Pipeline- Riley Ridge, LLC (Denbury) is proposing to construct a 16 and 24 inch carbon dioxide (CO2) pipeline and associated facilities along a 243-mile long linear right-of-way through Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater and Natrona counties in Wyoming. The project is referred to as the Riley Ridge to Natrona Project.

The BLM is releasing the Final EIS related to the development of the proposed Sonoran Valley Parkway Project by the City of Goodyear, in Maricopa County, Arizona. The City applied for a ROW grant to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate a 2- to 6-lane parkway on mostly Federal public land.

The BLM proposes to exchange certain Federal lands for properties owned by Galloway, Inc., the owners of the Blue Valley Ranch. The land exchange proposal would convey approximately 1,489 acres of Federal lands managed by the BLM in Grand County, Colorado, to Blue Valley Ranch in exchange for approximately 1,830 acres of non-Federal lands in Summit and Grand counties, Colorado.

ENERGY: Releasing the Draft Supplemental EIS for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for the Proposed Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Development Project, National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, for public comments; announces public meetings and subsistence hearings.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Lummi Nation's leasing regulations under the HEARTH Act. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into the following type of leases without BIA approval: Business and Residential purposes.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's leasing regulations under the HEARTH Act. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into Residential leases without BIA approval.

This notice announces that the Tribe adopted an amendment to its liquor control ordinance. Publication in the Federal Register is required by statute.

This notice announces that the Tribe adopted amendments to its liquor control ordinance.

NEPA Notice	no			
NEPA Notice	yes			
NEPA Notice	no	yes	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	yes	
NEPA Notice	yes	no	no	
NEPA Notice	yes	yes	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other
Notice	no	no	no	

late January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/14/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/6/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/17/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/27/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/1/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	9/19/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	9/19/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/31/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/30/2017

IAFR000387; 3063	NWRS	
IAFR000478		
IAFR000483		
1746		
1749		
1775		
1786		
1787		
IAFR000427		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000434		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR999469		Tribe has been requesting publication ASAP.
IAFR000470		

	ONRR	States' Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil & Gas Marginal Properties
	FWS	Notice of Availability of Draft Revised Stock Assessment Report for the Northern Sea Otter Stock in Washington; Request for Comments
	FWS	Species Proposals for Consideration at the 18th Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
	FWS	Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permits (Foreign species applications; Smithsonian National Zoological Park, first applicant)
	FWS	Teleconference/Meeting Notice - North American Wetlands Conservation Council
	BIA	List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated with Self-Governance Tribes for Non-BIA Programs
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Torrez Martinez Desert Cahuilla
	BIA	Bureau of Indian Education Standards, Assessments, and Accountability System Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Establishment; Nominations
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Ramona Band

ONRR regulations provide two types of accounting and auditing relief for Federal onshore or Outer Continental Shelf lease production from marginal properties. Each year ONRR provides a list of qualifying marginal Federal oil and gas properties to States that receive a portion of Federal royalties from those properties. Each State then decides whether to participate in one or both relief options. For calendar year 2018, we provide this notice with the affected States' decisions to allow one or both types of relief.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is publishing a notice of availability on the draft revised stock assessment report for the northern sea otter stock in Washington. This notice opens a 90-day public comment period to request input on this draft revision.

We invite information and recommendations on animal and plant species to be considered as candidates for U.S. proposals to amend Appendices I and II of CITES at the upcoming 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). Such amendments may concern the addition of species to Appendix I or II, the transfer of species from one Appendix to another, or the removal of species from Appendices. We also describe the U.S. approach to preparations for CoP18. We will publish a second Federal Register notice specifically to solicit information and recommendations on possible resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for discussion at CoP18 and to provide information on how to request approved observer status.

This notice is a weekly action taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority to notify the public of the receipt of permit applications under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on ESA and MMPA permits. There are no decisions announced in these weekly notices, but we cannot finalize the review of the permit applications until the conclusion of a mandatory 30-day comment period.

Teleconference will occur on February 22, 2018

This Notice lists the Interior programs that are eligible for inclusion in funding agreements negotiated with self-governance Tribes for each Interior Bureau other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This Notice also lists FY 2018 programmatic targets, as required by law.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' business leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business leases without further BIA approval.

The BIE is extending the nomination and comment period for this committee.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.

Notice	no	no	no	12/29/2017
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	

early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/218
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/28/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	9/13/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/17/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/2/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/19/2017

	ONRR	ONRR must publish a Federal Register notice at the end of each calendar year to notify the public of the States' determination to participate in one or both relief options. We prefer to publish this Notice by December 1, 2017 to allow ample time for public review, but definitely no later than the last business day of 2017 (December 29).
3083	ES	
3127	IA	
3142	IA	
3165	MB	
IAFR000426; 3033	ES	
IAFR000439		
IAFR000440		
IAFR000468		

	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval - Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
	BLM	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: New Mexico
	BOEM	Request for Feedback – BOEM Renewable Leasing Path Forward
1010-0057	BOEM	Information Collection Activities: 30-Day notice, 30 CFR 550, subpart C, Pollution Prevention and Control
1006-0028	BOR	60-day Notice Information Collection 1006-0028
	BSEE	F.R. Notice Rescinding Privacy Act Systems of Records Notices under the former MMS
	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Incidental Take Permit Application, Habitat Conservation Plan for Skink Species, and Environmental Assessment for Roadway Relocation in Polk County, FL
	BIA	Notice - BIA 2018-19 Proposed Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects
	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts in the State of California
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Skokomish Indian Tribe of WA
	BIA	Proclaiming certain lands as Reservation for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation of WA

This notice proclaims 520 acres in San Diego County, California as reservation for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma's leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into certain types of leases without further BIA approval.

The BLM received an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (Disclaimer) from Eric Oppenheimer/The Simmons Firm . This notice is intended to inform the public of the pending application, give notice of the BLM's intention to grant the requested Disclaimer of Interest, and provide a public comment period for the Disclaimer of Interest.

Request for Feedback – BOEM Renewable Leasing Path Forward for Future Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing on the Atlantic OCS

This information collection renewal concerns the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 550, subpart C. The 60-day notice was published on October 25, 2017, and announces the 60-day public comment period (ends December 26, 2017). The 30-day notice will be published at the end of the comment period, and announces a 30-day comment period in which comments are sent directly to OMB.

Reclamation is soliciting comments on the renewal of the Recreation Visitor Use Survey information collection.

BSEE is rescinding six systems of records notices (SORNs) from its existing inventory. These systems were managed by the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) until they were superseded by Department-wide SORNs; however, the MMS SORNs were never formally rescinded. Subsequently, upon the dissolution of MMS, responsibility for the six systems of records was transferred to BSEE. This notice formally rescinds the six MMS SORNs.

Cemex Construction Materials Florida (applicant) has applied for an incidental take permit for take of the federally threatened sand skink and blue-tailed mole skink. They have developed a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to support the permit application for the relocation of a 1.3-mile segment of Dude Ranch Road in Polk County, Florida. This notice, required by section 10(c) of the ESA, alerts the public that an incidental take permit application, HCP and environmental assessment related to the application are available for public review and comment.

This notice proposes rates for irrigation facilities operated by BIA for the 2018-2019 year.

This notice announces Secretarial approval of nine amended compacts in the State of CA.

This notice proclaims 581.96 acres as reservation for the Skokomish Indian Tribe of Washington.

This notice proclaims 156.97 acres as reservation for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation of Washington.

Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	1/17/2018
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other
Notice	no			12/17/2017
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/1/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/22/2017
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/21/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/11/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/22/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	12/20/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/1/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/02/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/02/17

IAFR000471		
IAFR000474		
1380		
BOR0016163		
3134	ES	
IAFR000454		Must propose now in order to allow charging of new rates on time.
IAFR000459 - 467		RACA holding for letter to be signed.
IAFR000356; 3091	MB	
IAFR000357		

	BIA	Trust Acquisition for Wilton Rancheria
	BIA	Notice Cancellation of EIS for Proposed Ft. Mojave Solar Project
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
	BIA	Proclaiming certain lands as Reservation for the Cheyenne River Tribe of SD
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Coquille Indian Tribe
	BIA	Notice of Facilities Operations and Maintenance Funding Formula
	BIA	HEARTH ACT Approval for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
	BIA	2018 Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
	BIA	Notice of Proposed Action and Request for Comments: Updates to Bureau of Indian Affairs Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act
	BLM	Notice of Final Supplementary Rules for Fort Ord National Monument, California
	BLM	Notice of Application for Withdrawal, Notice of Public Meeting, and Extension of Public Comment Period for Proposed Withdrawal in the Methow Valley; Washington

This notice announces a trust acquisition that occurred prior to January 20, 2017.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to cancel all work on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Fort Mojave Solar Project, Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, Mohave County, Arizona, and Clark County, Nevada. The notice of intent to prepare the EIS, which included a description of the proposed action, was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2016 (81 FR 21377).

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community leasing regulations under statutory authority specific to the Tribe. With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases of Tribal lands without BIA approval, unless the lease is for exploitation of any natural resource.

This notice proclaims 70 acres as reservation for the Cheyenne River Tribe of South Dakota.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes' Tribes Business Site Leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Coquille Indian Tribe leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business site leases without further BIA approval.

This notice announces consultation with Tribes on updates to the O&M funding formula for BIA owned facilities.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.

Notice publishes the current list of 567 tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the BIA.

This notice is part of the NEPA streamlining effort and seeks input on what CATEXs could be added or modified to improve the process.

The new rules allow off-leash dog walking, provide BLM rangers the authority to assist with pet enforcement in the national monument, and clarify who has the right-of-way among bikers, equestrians, and hikers.

A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the Federal Register on 12/10/2016 for approximately 340,079 acres of National Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, Okanogan National Forest. The purpose of the withdrawal is to protect the area while Congress considers legislation to permanently withdraw the lands and to protect the value of ecological and recreational resources of the Methow Valley. This notice announces the action, announces the logistics of a public meeting to be held, and reopens the comment period.

Notice	no			
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Due 01/31/18
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	Other

mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	4/20/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	7/12/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	06/01/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	01/09/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	10/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/17/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/29/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/26/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	11/3/17

IAFR000391; 3090	ES	
IAFR000406		
IAFR000349; 3091	MB	
IAFR000374		
IAFR000424		Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000435; 3075	ES	Waiting on press release to be completed for inclusion in briefing and communications plan.
IAFR000450		
IAFR000451		
IAFR000455		
IAFR000456		
1413		
1550		The BLM is no longer able to provide 30 days notice from the meeting, as currently scheduled. ORSO will reschedule when the notice clears DOI.

	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment for the OMYA Direct Land Sale Project, California
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Notice of designation of public lands in Garfield County, Colorado, as suitable for lease renewal for agricultural uses
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Non-competitive Direct Sale of the Reversionary Interest in a Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) Patent of Public Land in Clark County, Nevada (N-94498).
	BLM	DRECP Notice of Cancellation of Withdrawal application and Withdrawal proposal and Notice of Termination of EIS for California DRECP.
	BOR	Public Meeting of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
	NPS	U.S. Nomination to the World Heritage List: Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks
1012-0008	ONRR	Collection of Monies Due the Federal Government
	FWS	Orangutan technical (taxonomic) correction
	BIA	Deletion of System of Record Notice (SORN)
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Jicarilla Apache Nation of New Mexico
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
	BIA	Proclaiming Certain Lands as Reservation for the Pueblo of Pojoaque

In accordance with the 2011 Settlement Agreement, the BLM is considering a direct sale to OMYA. The lands would be used by OMYA for mining operations.

BLM Colorado is proposing to renew an agricultural lease (COC 54877) to the Carbondale Corporation for 11 acres of irrigated hayfield and 20 acres of non-irrigated rangeland. The most recent lease expired in 2013 and is being considered for renewal.

The Black Mountain Golf and Country Club (BMGCC) applied for a direct sale of the reversionary interest of their existing 140-acre parcel of land. The purpose of the direct sale is to dispose of the reversionary clause in the transfer document which contains these certain restrictions and conditions, thereby, giving fee title to the BMGCC and allowing them to use the land for other purposes.

This notice terminates the temporary segregation from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, and the requirements of applicable law.

Reclamation is announcing the February 14-15, 2018, public meeting of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group Federal advisory committee.

This Notice announces the decision to request that a draft nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for inclusion on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List be prepared.

To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ONRR is proposing to renew an information collection with revisions under 30 CFR part 1218.

When we listed the orangutan in 1970, the scientific community recognized one species (*Pongo pygmaeus*), consisting of two subspecies (*P. pygmaeus pygmaeus* and *P. p. abelii*). The original listed entity included all orangutans in the genus *Pongo*. However, the orangutan has recently been reclassified as belonging to two distinct species: *P. pygmaeus* and *P. abelii*. Therefore, we are revising the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to reflect the current scientifically accepted taxonomy and nomenclature of the orangutan. This change is supported by published studies in peer-reviewed journals, and it does not affect the range or endangered status of the orangutan.

This notice, required by the Privacy Act, deletes the system of record for the now-obsolete Information Management System (IMS) that has been replaced by the Document Tracking System (DTS).

This notice proclaims 2 parcels totaling 31,452 acres, as reservation for the Jicarilla Nation of New Mexico.

This notice proclaims 23 contiguous parcels totaling 1,146 acres, as reservation for the Bois Forte Band.

This notice proclaims 323.763 acres, more or less, an addition to the reservation of the Pueblo of Pojoaque in Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

[illegible]

mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	11/30/17
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/22/17
mid January	Pending Solicitor clearance	10/24/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/28/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/21/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	10/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	12/29/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	9/18/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/15/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	6/15/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/16/2017

1616		
1692		
1706		***This publication must be published ASAP***
1898		Suranme for this notice is being coordinated by the BLM Director's office on an expedited track.
BOR0016425		Must publish on/before 1/29/2018 in order to notify the public 15 days prior to meeting
23628		
	ONRR	Information Collection Expires: 3/31/18
3107	ES	
IAFR000290; 3024	ES	
IAFR000221		
IAFR000223; 3067	ES	
IAFR000472		

	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Nevada
	BIA	Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2019 or Calendar Year 2019
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
	BIA	HEARTH Act Approval for Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
	BLM	Final Supplementary Rules for Public Lands at Bastendorff Beach and the Associated Headlands in Coos County, Oregon
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Establish Recreation Fees on Public Lands in Clackamas County
	BLM	Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules for Travel Management on Public Lands in Montrose, Delta, San Miguel and Ouray Counties, Colorado
	BLM	Final Idaho Statewide Supplementary Rules
	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, New Mexico

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California negotiated the First Amended Compact between the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the State of Nevada governing Class III gaming; this notice announces approval of the amended Compact.

In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 1, 2018, deadline for Indian Tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the Tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2019 or calendar year 2019.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians' leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.

This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's leasing regulations under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further BIA approval.

These final rules will enable the BLM to continue necessary law enforcement action to protect public health and safety and curtail illegal activity at Bastendorff Beach in Coos County. The interim final supplementary rules, established April 1, 2016, changed the current 14-day stay limit to a 24-hour stay limit, and required campers to move at least 25 air miles from a previously occupied site after 24 hours of camping. Finalizing the new camping limits will help the BLM minimize damage to natural resources, maintain public access for recreational uses, and reduce threats to public health, safety, and property.

Northwest Oregon District is seeking public comments for establishing new expanded amenity (overnight) and standard amenity (day-use) fees at District recreation sites. The BLM did not have a Resource Advisory Council/Committee to approve any fee changes from 2010 until 2016, and could not carry out this provision of the fee law. In that time, we built several new facilities that were meant to be fee sites to cover operational costs, and we did not have authority to charge fees despite having built new amenities. The fees would range from \$5 for day-use vehicle fees to \$50 for group campsite fees.

The proposed rules would restrict the possession and use of motorized and mechanized vehicles to designated travel routes, implement seasonal closures to protect big game wintering habitat within each travel plan, and restrict pets from within the Ridgway Travel Management planning area.

The supplementary rules will provide for more effective enforcement of recreation-related regulations, improve consistency, and enhance public safety and resource protection. These rules cover hunting blinds, litter, burning or disposal of materials containing metal hardware, public nudity, and motor vehicle use.

A revision to the 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan (RMP) is necessary because a number of changes have occurred in the planning area since its publication. New resource issues have emerged; new resource data are available for consideration; and new policies, guidelines, and laws have been established. The changes are in part due to continuing fluid and solid mineral extraction and energy developments in the area, and new technologies being used to extract those resources.

Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	

late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/17/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/11/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	8/8/17
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/20/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/14/2017

IAFR000476		
IAFR000479		
IAFR000480		
IAFR000481		
1337		
1365		
1387		
1486		
1545		

	BLM	Notice of Intent to Amend the Miles City Field Office 2015 Resource Management Plan and to Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment, Montana
	BLM	Notice of Closure, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Project Environmental Impact Statement with a Proposed Plan Amendment to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Notice of Segregation for the Crescent Peak Wind
	BLM	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Intent to Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment, and Notification of Public Meeting; Nevada
	BLM	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Bingham County, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed RE Crimson Solar Project, Riverside County, CA
	BLM	Notice of Application-Recordable Disclaimer of Interest-Kanektok River system Alaska
	BLM	Alaska Native Claims Selection - Calista Corporation

This notifies the public that BLM-MT plans to amend its Miles City Field Office Resource Management Plan to accommodate a direct sale of the U.S.' reversionary interest in nearly 12 acres of land that it sold to Miles Community College in 1992. The college has used the land for school-related rodeo, agriculture, and recreation activities. With the purchase of the U.S.' reversionary interest, the school can rent out the facilities on the property to third parties for community events.

This Notice announces closures within the Monument on certain holidays over the next two years. If the closures do not occur, scheduled maintenance and cultural practices will be interrupted.

The notice announces the intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project. It also announces the segregation of lands under the 2013 Final Rule for Segregation of Lands for Renewable Energy that allows BLM to temporarily segregate public lands within a wind application area.

In accordance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Secretary of the Interior has approved a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) petition/application for withdrawal of approximately 613,511 acres of Federal land in Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing Counties, Nevada, for up to 4 years from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The petition/application also requests withdrawal of 68,804 acres of Federal land in the Dixie Valley Training Area from the mineral leasing laws (not currently withdrawn from these laws under Section 3016 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2000 (NDAA 2000), to maintain the current environmental baseline, relative to mineral exploration and development for land management evaluation purposes, subject to valid existing rights.

Claire Rich Blakely has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest from the United States on behalf of LaRue J. Rich and Violet B. Rich. The application affects an approximately 56- acre unsurveyed parcel of land in Bingham County, Idaho. This notice is intended to inform the public of the pending application and of the opportunity for comment.

The applicant, Sonoran West Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Recurrent Energy LLC, has requested a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a maximum 350 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic facility and necessary ancillary facilities, including battery storage, project substations, access roads, operations and maintenance buildings, and lay down areas. The Project area is approximately 2,700 acres of BLM-administered lands in eastern Riverside County, California.

BLM received an application from the State of Alaska for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) for lands underlying the Kanektok River System, including Pegati and Kagati Lakes, 94 river miles, and 2,304 acres.

BLM is providing constructive notice for conveyance of surface estate to Alaska Native regional corporation, Calista Corporation, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The U.S. retains subsurface.

Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	yes	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/25/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/14/17
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/15/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/9/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/3/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	10/31/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/13/2017

1611		
1624		
1663		
1699		
1721		
1765		
1780		
1791		

	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification; Washington County, Utah
	BLM	Alaska Native Claims Selection (Calista 21.03 acres)
	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Noncompetitive Sale and Conveyance of Mineral Interests of Public Land in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona
	BLM	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board
	NPS	Request for Comments on: National Register Bulletin 38
	NPS	NOA of Draft EIS and Mgt. Plan for Saline Valley Warm Springs-DEVA
	NPS	NIC: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT (N2883)
	FWS	Hurricane Sandy Coastal Barrier Resources System Remapping Project
	FWS	AEP American burying beetle LEHCP
	FWS	City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan
1029-0047	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0047
1029-0039	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0039

This NORA will classify and segregate 52.15 acres of public land in Washington County, Utah, for the purpose of leasing and subsequently patenting the land to the City of Santa Clara for the use of a public park.
BLM is providing constructive notice to convey surface/subsurface estate to Calista Corp. under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).
BLM Phoenix District received a request from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) for the transfer of 3,385.54 acres at not less than appraised fair market value. The land is split into 2 parcels. The lands are on the western and southern margins of the GRIC Reservation.
This is to initiate the Call for Nominations for three vacancies coming up in March 2018.
The NPS is soliciting written comments from its tribal, national, state, and local historic preservation partners, NPS regional offices and parks, other Federal agencies, and the public at large regarding the updated draft FAQs noted above.
The purpose of the plan/DEIS is to develop a management strategy for the Saline Valley Warm Springs area that will complement DEVA GMP. This plan/DEIS is being developed in cooperation with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Inyo County, and the BLM.
A Notice of Inventory Completion is published when a museum or Federal agency has made a determination of cultural affiliation for Native American human remains and associated funerary objects under their possession or control.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared proposed digital boundaries for the first batch of Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) units included in the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project. The first batch includes proposed CBRS boundaries for Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey (covering six percent of the total existing CBRS acreage). The notice announces the availability of the proposed boundaries for a 120-day public comment period and also advises of upcoming public meetings that will be held via webcast and teleconference. A public review for the other five states (Connecticut, Maryland, New York (Long Island), Rhode Island, and Virginia) is planned for late 2018.
This notice, required by section 10(c) of the ESA, alerts the public that an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) has been received, and the associated low-effect habitat conservation plan and NEPA categorical exclusion are available for public review and comment. American Electric Power (applicant) has requested an ITP for take of the endangered American burying beetle incidental to the rebuilding of the Fixico Point of Delivery (POD) to Weleetka transmission line in Hughes, Okfuskee, and Seminole Counties, Oklahoma.
The US Fish and Wildlife Service must publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register for the City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan and final Environmental Impact Statement. These are final documents that must be made available to the public before we can finish the permitting process.
30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 816 & 817, Permanent Program Performance Standards
30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 784, Underground Mining - Reclamation and Operations Plans

Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	yes	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	Other (1/26/2017)
Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018

late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/2017
late January	Pending SIO-Alaska clearance	12/17/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/18/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance; On hold per direction from Aurelia Skipwith	6/22/17
late January	Pending Bureau Clearance	1/2/2018
late January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance; Cleared EOS 1/4/18	12/20/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/14/2017
late January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/2/2018
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/19/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17

1815		
1824		
1804		
1833		
23585		
24195		
24745		Must publish by February 6, 2018.
3088	ES	
3149	ES	Timely action on the permit application
3170	ES	
		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18
		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18

1029-0083	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0083
1029-0059	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0059
1029-0129	OSMRE	30-Day Notice Information Collection 1029-0129
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Oil and Gas, or Geothermal Resources: Transfers and Assignments
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws
	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Onshore Oil and Gas Operations and Production
	BLM	Notice of information and request for comment (60 day notice) Agency Information Collection Activities; Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests
	BLM	Notice of Information Collection; Request for Comment (1004-0165) (60 day notice)
1018-New	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting for the Northwest Oregon Resource Advisory Council

30-day information collection notice for 30 CFR 955, Federal Blaster Certifications (Form OSM-74)

30-day information collection notice for State and Tribal Grants (Forms OSM-47, -49, -51)

30-day information collection notice for Nominations for Reclamation Awards

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires a valid control number from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information. A control number is valid for three years at most. Publication of this document is an urgently necessary step in asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew control number 1004-0169. This control number enables the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to regulate the use and occupancy of unpatented hardrock mining claims.

30-Day Notice for Control Number 1004-0137

The BLM requests renewal of OMB control number 1004-0153, which enables the BLM to process applications by owners of surface estates (i.e., individuals, businesses, or state, local, or tribal governments) to obtain title to underlying Federally-owned mineral estates.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

The notice provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Service's intention to seek Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a new information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA). Both contests predate the PRA and require clearance. A valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) is an annual licensing requirement for all migratory bird hunters. Artwork for the stamp is chosen by a panel of judges during an annual art contest. The Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp contests encourage the public to engage in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation mission. In support of directives in SO 3347, the Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp programs actively engage Americans of all ages to better understand the biological requirements and conservation management of waterfowl and wetlands. Contestants portray their understanding of the anatomy and ecology of waterfowl as well as the importance of wildlife conservation and the waterfowl hunting heritage in order to successfully compete. Contest entry forms are necessary to enable the Service to track contestants' artwork during the contest judging process, verify age and unique artwork requirements, and return artwork.

Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018

ICR Notice	no	no	no	1/31/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	6/30/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	6/30/2018
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
ICR Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	

mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/4/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/18/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/20/17
early January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	11/20/2017

		Information Collection Expires: 1/31/18
		Information Collection Expires: 6/30/18
		Information Collection Expires: 6/30/18
1852		
1857		
1870		
1880		
1882		
3163	ABHC	
1798		Must publish by 1/22/17 to provide 30 days notice.

	BLM	Notice of Subcommittee Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting, Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings: Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and its Planning and Recreation Subcommittees, Nevada
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings, Boise District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting - Twin Falls District RAC, Idaho
	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting, Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council Meeting
	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings, Southwest Resource Advisory Council
	BLM	Meetings of the Dumont Dunes Subgroup of the California Desert District Advisory Council

NPS Notice of Availability of the Final Plan/EIS to address wolves at Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

NPS Notice of Availability of Draft Plan/EIS for ungulate management at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Colorado)

NPS List of National Park Units Exempt from Certain Provisions of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act

NPS Notice of Availability of Draft Plan/EIS for livestock grazing and trailing management at Capitol Reef National Park (UT)

Meeting on January 18 and 19, 2018
Meeting on January 18.
The Southeast Oregon RAC will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, and Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Meetings on January 11.
two meetings - first on 01/31/18; notice must publish NLT 12/29/17 to meet FACA advance notice requirement (and account for Federal holidays)
FACA required notice of Twin Falls RAC meeting on January 24, 2018.
Announces quarterly meeting of Idaho Fall District RAC
This meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2018.
Meeting dates are March 24, 2018, and September 18, 2018.
The wolf population at Isle Royale NP has been declining and the potential absence of wolves on the island could affect the ecosystem, including impacts to both the moose population and forest/vegetation communities. Natural recovery of the wolf population is unlikely.
The plan is intended to address elk concentrations in the park and preserve, and bison management options for the Medano Ranch property to be acquired from the Nature Conservancy.
This notice provides the annual updated list of parks that are exempt from preparing an air tour management plan or agreement as required by the National Parks Air Tour Management Act. There are 54 park units identified in the Notice as having 50 or fewer annual air tours. The notice explains that the list changes from year to year since parks may be added or removed based on the previous year's number of annual operations or if an exemption is withdrawn by the FAA and NPS.
The plan is intended to provide guidance and tools to the NPS and permit holders for the long-term management of livestock grazing and trailing at the park. All options in the plan assume continuation of grazing and trailing pursuant to existing legislative authority.

Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	yes	
Advisory Committee Meeting Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	yes	yes	
Notice	no	yes	no	
Notice	no	no	no	
Notice	no	no	no	

mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/12/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/15/2017
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/17
mid January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/27/2017
mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Pending Bureau clearance	12/22/2017
late January	Surnames complete; next step to Exec Sec for final clearance to Federal Register	1/4/18
late January	Needs NPS political staffer review before AS-FWP	12/19/17
late January	Pending Bureau surname and clearance	1/5/18
late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	1/2/18

1832		Must publish early January for 15 days notice.
1837		Must publish early January for 15 days notice.
1847		Must publish by 1/15 to provide 15 days notice.
1861		The BLM is no longer able to provide 15 days notice.
1874		Must publish 1/16 to provide 15 days notice.
1813		Must publish early January to provide 15 days notice.
1828		Must publish early January to provide 15 days notice of meeting on 1/23/18.
1889		
1884		
24116		
24169		
24835		
23422		

To: Angela Gustavson[angela_gustavson@fws.gov]
From: Gustavson, Angela
Sent: 2018-01-05T16:20:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Congressional Affairs Update
Received: 2018-01-05T16:21:03-05:00
[1.5.18.docx](#)

Good afternoon,
The Congressional Affairs Update for this week is attached.

Congress returned from the holiday recess and convened the second session of the 115th Congress. Next week, there is a markup of interest to the Service scheduled in the House Committee on Natural Resources and a hearing focused on water infrastructure needs and challenges in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Have a good weekend,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
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angela_gustavson@fws.gov

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

*Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

January 5, 2018

2018 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
Jan. 15	MLK Jr. Holiday	Jan. 15
		District Work Period Jan. 22-Jan. 26
		Republican Conference Meetings Feb. 1-Feb. 2
		Democratic Conference Meetings Feb. 8-Feb. 9
State Work Period Feb. 19-Feb. 23	Presidents' Day Feb. 19	District Work Period Feb. 20-Feb. 23
State Work Period Mar. 26-Apr. 6		District Work Period Mar. 26-Apr. 6
State Work Period Apr. 30-May 4		District Work Period Apr.30-May 4
State Work Period May 28-June 1	Memorial Day May 28	District Work Period May 28-June 1
State Work Period July 2-July 6	Independence Day July 4	District Work Period July 2-July 6
State Work Period Aug. 6-Sep. 3	Labor Day Sep. 3	District Work Period July 30-Sep. 3
Sep. 10-Sep. 11	Rosh Hashanah	Sep. 10-Sep. 11
Sep. 19	Yom Kippur	District Work Period Sep. 17-Sep. 21
Oct. 8	Columbus Day	Oct. 8
State Work Period	Veterans Day	District Work Period

Oct. 29-Nov. 12	Nov. 12 (observed)	Oct. 15-Nov. 9
State Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22	District Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23
	Targeted Adjournment Date Dec. 14	

UPCOMING HEARINGS/MARKUPS

House Committee to Hold Markup of Legislation

On Wednesday, January 11, the House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup of six bills related to public lands and environmental permitting, one of which is of interest to the Service. H.R. 3133, sponsored by Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA-4), amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to reduce permitting delays. The markup is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID_403682

Senate Committee to Hold Hearing on Water Infrastructure Projects

On Wednesday, January 10, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold an oversight hearing entitled “America’s Water Infrastructure Needs and Challenges.” The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/1/america-s-water-infrastructure-needs-and-challenges>

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

S.2277 — A bill to require the delisting of Mexican gray wolves under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 on a determination that the subspecies has been sufficiently recovered in the United States.

Sponsor: Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ] (Introduced 01/04/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 01/04/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

H.R.4735 — Gold King Mine Spill Accountability Act of 2018

Sponsor: Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2] (Introduced 01/03/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure, Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 01/03/2018 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.